Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 119 | TUESDAY MAY 19, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Judge wants to see docs on payments to DC law firm. PAGE 3

Swine flu cases explode in Japan, most are teens. PAGE 7

Korean businessman killed

Storeowner is 2nd homicide victim in the CNMI this year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Korean businessman was killed by an unidentified person or persons inside his store along Tanapag Avenue in Tanapag Sunday night.

The 65-year-old owner of New Star Market was found dead lying behind the cashier's counter.

Although police declined to state at this time what caused the victim's death, David said the case has been classified as homicide/murder. This makes it the second homicide case in the CNMI this year.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David said medics responded to the scene

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CONTACT INFO
- DPS: 664-9045 to 55
- Crime Stoppers Hotline: 234-7272

MARCH AGAINST CANCER WEEK NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos proclaims May18-23 as 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer Week during a simple ceremony at the Bank of Guam office yesterday, amid the presence of members of the Commonwealth Cancer Association and sponsors witnessing the occasion. *See story on Page 6.*

Cohen pushes for 'flexible' federalization, green cards

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

David B. Cohen, a former deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, says "flexible federalization" should be implemented to minimize harm to the CNMI economy by including Russian and Chinese tourists in the visa waiver program, exempting the islands from caps on H visas,

Cohen

See COHEN on Page 4

Guest workers to seek RP Arroyo's help

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Various guest worker groups in the CNMI are thinking of seeking the help of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in their struggle to have the U.S. Congress grant them long-term immigration status in the Commonwealth.

The groups said they will write Macapagal-Arroyo to urge her to appeal to the U.S. government on their behalf to grant them a more permanent immigration status in the CNMI. Majority of guest workers in the CNMI are from the Philippines.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Guest workers began their three-day peaceful assembly early yesterday morning in front of TSL Plaza in Garapan to press for better immigration status in the CNMI.

The guest workers began their three-day peaceful assembly early yesterday morning in front of TSL Plaza in Garapan

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'CRM, DEQ may have violated their own regs'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources yesterday said the Coastal Resources Management and the Division of Environmental Quality may have violated the very same environmental laws, regulations and procedures they are mandated to enforce when they allowed clearing of 62 hectares of public lands in Marpi in April without a major siting permit, only to waive

See CRM on Page 4

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the governor's call for another one-year delay to federalization?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 5

As of May 18, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

No Doubt
Gwen Stefani may be a superstar but she is also just a mom.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

3rd Annual
FIREHOUSE "OPEN HOUSE"
Family Fun Day
May 23, 2009 Fire Station 5, Kagman from 9am to 2pm
FREE Food, Drinks and Lots of Prizes
EMSC Emergency Medical Services for Children
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Local

Senate passes MVA funding, runoff election bills

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate yesterday passed a bill providing for runoff election procedures and allows for the counting of absentee ballots on the day of election, along with a bill that reprograms $206,396.34 from the Marianas Visitors Authority's operations budget to its personnel appropriation.

Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan discusses a point during yesterday's session, as Senate legal counsel Tony Cabrera looks on.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By an 8-0 vote, House Bill 16-243 passed, which would save the job of 15 of 35 current MVA employees once the governor signs it into law.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, who was present at yesterday's session, issued in April a notice to its 35 employees of a reduction in force effective June 1 in order to stay within the funding level for the rest of the fiscal year, unless a reprogramming of funds within the agency is approved.

The Senate also passed House Bill 16-220, which amends the CNMI Election Law to provide for runoff election procedures and to allow for the counting of absentee ballots on election day.

The bill, however, had floor amendments to clarify that voters who did not vote in the preceding general election are still qualified to register for the runoff election and the next general election, said Senate Floor Leader Jude U. Hofschneider.

Hofschneider said H.B. 16-220, introduced by Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, also empowers the Commonwealth Election Commission board of directors to promulgate the rules and regulations.

The bill said it is necessary to establish runoff election procedures as mandated by the ratification of House Legislative Initiative 15-16, which amends Article III Section 4 of the Constitution to require a runoff election for governor and lieutenant governor if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for that office.

Approximately 73 percent of total votes cast during the 2007 general election were in support of the initiative.

The bill also mandates the counting of absentee ballots on election day to allow for more time for the transitional period of the governor-elect and lieutenant governor-elect.

NMC graduates slightly increase

NMC to confer diplomas, certificates to 238 graduates

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College will post a slight increase in the number of its Spring graduates this year, a 7-percent growth compared to the previous year's record.

Next week, a total of 238 graduates are expected to march in commencement rites that will be keynoted by Dr. Rita A. Sablan, the current education commissioner of the Public School System.

In Spring 2008, NMC graduates totaled 222.

The college's Admission and Records Office confirmed yesterday that candidates for graduation include 28 in bachelor of science in elementary education; liberal arts, 34; business, 3; and nursing, 20.

In the business administration programs, graduating students in accounting emphasis total seven; business management emphasis, 10; computer applications, 3; and sales and marketing, 1.

Three are expected to graduate with associate degrees in criminal justice, along with three with associate degrees in hospitality management.

In the certificate programs, 20 will be awarded the certificate for early childhood education; one for related services technician; and a certificate of achievement will be awarded to two students for construction trades.

NMC also recorded a total of 110 graduates for its Adult Basic Education program.

Last Saturday, the baccalaureate Mass for the graduates was held at Kristo Rai Church, followed by a graduation banquet at the Pacific Islands Club. The graduation committee, composed of graduates, fundraised for the banquet.

'Graduation theme'

The graduating class committee has chosen as this year's theme "Cherish Yesterday, Dream Tomorrow, Live Today."

Awards to be given at the ceremony include the Student Leadership Award and the Academic Achievement Awards, which will be given to students with the highest GPA.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said yesterday she is proud of the students' achievements.

"The NMC family is extremely proud of the students who are graduating. They have worked so hard and have made many sacrifices to accomplish their educational goals. We look forward to joining the graduates and their families in celebrating their momentous achievement at the graduation ceremony," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The president also vowed to work with each graduate to provide them with whatever assistance they need for their transition to full time jobs, or for some, a transition into a four-year university.

She's also hoping that graduating students become active members of the NMC Alumni Association.

May
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Judge wants to see docs on payments to DC law firm

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ordered Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos to deliver to the court documents relating to payments to the law firm that is handling the CNMI's lawsuit against federalization.

Wiseman directed Fitial and Inos to provide the documents on or before May 28, 2009 in a sealed envelope for the court's "in camera" review.

A legal proceeding is "in camera" when a hearing is held before the judge in his or her private chambers or when the public is excluded from the courtroom.

Wiseman said the documents should include all items identified as "billing invoice," "voucher/payment," "supplier payment inquiry," and item numbers 30-34 in the defendants' privilege log.

Fitial hired a U.S. law firm, Jenner and Block, in the CNMI's lawsuit opposing federal control of local immigration.

Wiseman also ordered Fitial and Inos to file on or before May 28 a document that clarifies or corrects a previous misinformation about the governor's account number.

Assistant attorney general Braddock Huesman, counsel for Fitial and Inos, earlier admitted that the governor's account number that was previously provided to Rep. Tina Sablan was erroneously identified.

Rep. Sablan had brought to the court's attention during the May 14 hearing that the account number provided her by acting Attorney General Gregory Baka does not exist. The account number was supposedly the funding source for the federalization lawsuit. Sablan said she is not sure whether or not it was an honest error.

Sablan appeared without a lawyer during the May 14 hearing. Government lawyer Meaghan Hassel-Shearer appeared on behalf of Fitial and Inos.

A day before the hearing, Huesman had asked for a continuance in the proceedings until the second week of June, citing business and medical reasons.

Wiseman found good cause for Huesman's motion and granted partial continuance, thereby only discussing a portion of the pending issues at the hearing on May 14.

Wiseman said that, as noted at the hearing, the Open Government Act provides for an expedited litigation schedule.

"In view of this, the court has exercised diligence in efforts to comply with the expedited scheduling required by the law," he said.

Thus, the judge noted, while an additional short continuance will be granted, Huesman's request to postpone the matter un-

See JUDGE on Next Page

Man gets a day in prison for criminal mischief

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona has imposed a one-day prison term on a man who was arrested in 2006 with another man for allegedly burglarizing a house.

Manglona sentenced Argenon Agulto Flores to one year in prison, all suspended except for one day, for criminal mischief.

Following a plea agreement, Manglona gave Flores credit for the one day he had already served in jail. This means the defendant will be released by the Department of Corrections.

Flores was placed on two years' probation and required to enroll in the U.S. Forest Service firefighting "reservist" program within six months of entry of his guilty plea.

The judge ordered the defendant to pay a total of $8,199.05 to house owner Mark Sasaki and five other burglary victims.

Manglona ordered Flores to pay a $25 court assessment fee plus $100 probation fee. He was directed to write a letter of apology to the victims.

Flores and Daniel Aldan Quitugua were charged with conspiracy to commit burglary and theft, burglary, theft, and criminal mischief, for breaking into the house of Sasaki between July 7 and 8, 2006. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CPA faces $1M loss by end of fiscal year

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed that it is facing a sizable loss of up to $1 million by the end of the fiscal year, just for subsidizing both the Tinian and Rota airports' operations.

The agency's management reported to the CPA board of directors that from October last year to March 2009, the Rota airport posted $385,775 in operating expenses, compared to revenue of only $129,399 for the same period.

The Tinian airport incurred expenses totaling $363,242 in six months, compared to only $104,325 in total revenue generated during the same period.

Of the CNMI's three major islands, only Saipan is showing a positive trend in the six-month period, showing a total of $5.1 million revenue compared to operating expenses of $3.7 million.

In the first six months of this fiscal year, the CPA Airport Division reported a $1.6 million increase in revenue as a result of increased airport fees and the termination of the airline incentive program last year.

The total airport operating costs decreased by $97,000, reflecting austerity programs offset by increased maintenance costs.

Last year's operating income was $917,000, which jumped to nearly $1.8 million in the current fiscal year.

"It should be noted that despite this overall increase, Rota and Tinian continue to generate sizable losses which are estimated to reach $1 million for the full year," a CPA report obtained by *Saipan Tribune* showed.

The management expressed concern about this continuous subsidy of the Rota and Tinian operations, saying this could result in CPA not meeting its required ratio under the bond indenture agreement.

At present, CPA's ratio stands at .90, far behind the required 1.25 ratio.

"While progress has been made, based upon the available data, CPA will still not meet the required ratios contained in the bond indenture," the same report said.

The CPA management hopes that additional flights would boost the agency's efforts to comply with the requirement.

Meantime, in the first six months of the current fiscal year, it was reported that seaport revenues are down 12 percent, even though total operating costs declined by 30 percent.

Records show that in the first six months of FY 2008, seaports revenue was at $2.8 million compared to FY 2009's $2.5 million—a difference of $352,000.

Saipan recorded $2.3 million in operating revenues; Tinian, $95,177; and Rota, $76,485.

Both airports and seaports of Rota and Tinian vastly underperformed the Saipan facility due to limited revenues and the high cost of personnel.

"While the importance of airports and seaports on these two islands is unquestioned, the financial subsidy paid by Saipan is growing," the report stated, adding that the management and the board need to consider strategies that can reduce this subsidy amount.

Employers flee before Labor hearing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor has found a corporation and its officers liable to pay a total of $64,969 in unpaid wages and illegal deductions to 16 alien workers.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Herbert D. Soll ordered Yong Jia Corp., and its officers—Wong Manon and Hua Jiang Ulloa—to pay the 16 workers, all Chinese, in amounts ranging from $2,724 to $4,912.

Soll said if the employers fail to pay or deliver repatriation tickets to the workers, the sureties in each of the workers' contracts may be held responsible for wages to the limits of the bond and for the plane tickets.

Soll sanctioned Yong Jia Corp., On, and Ulloa to pay $2,000 each for numerous violations of Labor law.

The respondents are permanently disqualified from employing any foreign workers in the Commonwealth.

Soll also recommended that Labor consider recommending a revocation of any business permits issued to any of the respondents.

He ruled that the 16 workers are entitled to transfer to new employers and have 30 days to file an Intent to Employ from an eligible employer.

According to Labor records, On was the shareholder of a Commonwealth long-term business permit for more than 10 years. He was the president and sole stockholder of Yong Jia Corp. Ulloa aided On in his actions as an administrative assistant/accountant/translator.

Ulloa, a U.S. citizen, assisted Yong Jia Corp. and On in willful violations of law by falsifying time and attendance records and distributing paychecks and cash payments to employees in a scheme to avoid full payment of wages earned.

Ulloa facilitated the acceptance of illegal and unauthorized employment fees.

Eighteen complainants appeared at the April 24, 2009, hearing. On and Ulloa, however, have already left the CNMI and did not appear at the hearing despite notices about the proceeding.

The workers testified that the respondents asked them to pay processing fees; failed to pay their wages; failed to provide them work for several months; did not pay them overtime; and refused to reimburse plane tickets.

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CRM

From Page 1

the permit requirements on Friday.

"If we can't entrust them [CRM, DEQ] with protecting our environment, who can we trust?" asked House Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero.

The area is being cleared of unexploded World War II ordnance by a Department of Public Lands contractor, Ampro.

At yesterday's meeting between regulatory agencies and the House committee, lawmakers raised concern about CRM director Dr. Jon Joyner's May 15 letter to Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario waiving the requirements of a major siting permit for the project.

"The CRM director seems to be contradicting himself when he said there's no violation of any regulations and then saying land clearing commenced without obtaining an application for a major siting permit. In the same letter, he waived requirements for the permit…It seems the letter is to cover up something," said Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero, along with House Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, Reps. Tina Sablan, Joe Reyes, Diego Benavente, David Apatang and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, expressed frustration over not getting direct responses from Joyner and DEQ director Frank Rabauliman during the meeting in the House chamber.

As a result, the committee will put in writing all questions addressed to the regulatory agencies, Tebuteb said.

"If we are still not satisfied with the answers, then that's the time we'd call for an oversight hearing, subpoena documents, and have them take the oath," he said.

In one instance, Benavente asked Joyner whether he has the authority under CRM law to waive the requirements for a major siting permit, to which Joyner responded with a long statement about CRM's functions and responsibilities.

Sablan said the question is answerable by "yes" or "no."

Joyner, when asked by reporters for

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GUEST

From Page 1

where the office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the CNMI is located.

The turnout was estimated at over a hundred, mostly Filipinos and Bangladeshis who are members of different guest worker groups.

Although the worker groups have appointed Yho Villavicencio as their spokesperson, the worker groups said they speak as one.

"We just want to voice our concerns. We want them to grant us improved status," Villavicencio explained.

The workers camped out near the building and vowed to stay during the night until Wednesday. They said their doing this is within the bounds of the law.

Although Walter L. Haith was seen talking to the worker groups, he said he is speaking on a person-to-person basis. Haith is the Field Office director for Guam and the CNMI of the U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services.

He said he can only make recommendations until November when the regulations for federalization will take place.

But he said in his personal capacity, he supports what the workers are doing.

"They have the right to do it. They are not disrupting the offices. It's a good start for them because even if they won't be able to get what they want, at least they are doing something and their voices are heard," Haith said.

This Wednesday, a U.S. Congress subcommittee will hold an oversight hearing on Public Law 110-229, the law that authorizes the federal government to take over the immigration system of the CNMI.

Rep. Tina Sablan will be reportedly be submitting testimony in support of the guest workers during the oversight hearing.

The workers want the Secretary of the Interior to recommend to the U.S. Congress to permit lawfully admitted guest workers legally residing in the CNMI to apply for long-term status. They said this is clearly stated in the law.

The workers also said that the U.S. Congress should fully realize that the CNMI needs the guest workers to stay and help the economy going.

"Who knows, maybe the U.S. Congress will grant our request. We can see Mr. Haith is very supportive of us right now but he cannot promise anything and we understand his position," the workers said.

PL 110-229 Section 6 states that the Secretary of the Interior should report to Congress the number of aliens residing in the CNMI, description of their legal status, number of years each alien has been residing, and current and future requirements of the CNMI economy for alien labor.

The main concern of the guest worker groups is the provision that states: "Such recommendations to the Congress as the Secretary may deem appropriate, related to whether or not Congress should consider permitting lawfully admitted guest workers to apply for long-term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States."

JUDGE

From Page 3

til mid-June cannot be accommodated.

Wiseman ordered that a hearing on this matter be held on June 4, 2009 at 1:30pm, at which time Huesman or another counsel who is able to do so, is directed to come and be prepared to argue the government's position in this case.

Sablan sued Fitial and Inos to compel the administration to disclose where it is getting the money to fund the lawsuit against federalization.

Huesman argued that forcing the CNMI to release sensitive information that the federal government is not entitled to contravenes the purpose of a statute that deals with litigation exceptions to the OGA.

COHEN

From Page 1

extending the transitional guest worker program beyond 2014, and making legal workers who have lived in the CNMI for at least five years eligible to apply for "green card," among other things.

Cohen is one of the witnesses at the May 19 hearing in Washington, D.C. by the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife on the implementation of the federalization law.

Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act calls for federal takeover of CNMI immigration by Nov. 28, from an earlier date of June 1, 2009.

No to further delay

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who is also testifying at the hearing, wants another one-year delay in federalization.

But his proposal is opposed by guest workers who are holding a three-day peaceful vigil, as well as the local advocacy group Taotao Tano president Greg Cruz and Rep. Tina Sablan.

"Supporting such request is seriously counterproductive and not in the interest of our people, community and our homeland as a whole," Cruz said in a letter yesterday to members of the CNMI Legislature.

Cruz and Sablan separately said Fitial's ongoing lawsuit against the federal government over federalization constraints his request for further extension.

Sablan said it is not for Fitial to decide whether the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is ready to implement federalization by Nov. 28, 2009.

Likely disaster

Cohen, who visited the CNMI again two weeks ago, spoke of the economic decline that was already in full swing when the federalization bill was being drafted in 2007, and has continued to this day.

He said if the Marianas immigration legislation is not implemented in accordance with the stated intent of Congress, then an economic and humanitarian disaster is likely to occur.

Cohen was the federal official responsible for generally administering, on behalf of the secretary of the Interior, the federal government's relationship with the CNMI and Guam.

In his eight-page testimony, Cohen offered suggestions for the implementation of the federalization law, some of which will require legislative action.

He said the express intent of the U.S. Congress must be taken seriously in minimizing, to the greatest extent practicable, potential adverse economic and fiscal effects of phasing out the CNMI's nonresident contract worker program and to maximize the islands' potential for future economic and business growth by encouraging diversification and growth.

"Congress should hold the Executive Branch accountable to this language, and require the Executive Branch to demonstrate how every action that it takes or fails to take to implement the Marianas immigration legislation is consistent with the letter and spirit of Congress' clearly stated intent," said Cohen.

He said the statute gives the Department of Homeland Security plenty of special tools to ensure that China and Russia can be included on the list without threatening the welfare, safety, or security of the United States or its territories.

The CNMI government and business community want continuous access to the Chinese and Russian tourists, especially with the downturn in arrivals from major markets of Japan and South Korea.

Exemption to visa caps

Cohen also said the CNMI should be permanently exempted from caps on H visas, and Guam should be exempted from such caps, at least for long enough to ensure that it has the labor required for the military and civilian infrastructure planned for the coming years.

The federalization law provides for the transitional guest worker program to be phased out by the end of 2014, but it can be extended indefinitely in increments of up to five years.

"The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has already acknowledged…that at least one five-year extension will likely be necessary," said Cohen.

He said there is nothing to prevent the secretary of Labor from making that determination today, rather than waiting until the end of the five-year period.

"An early extension would certainly help to alleviate the uncertainty that businesses and workers in the CNMI currently have to deal with," he said.

No to break up of families

Cohen said the U.S. Congress should also make sure that the federalization legislation does not break up families.

"The statute will likely have to be amended in order to prevent many long-term residents of the CNMI from losing their status, including spouses of citizens of the Freely Associated States, persons to whom the CNMI granted permanent residence and their spouses, widows and widowers of U.S. citizens, and those remaining so-called "stateless children" who were born before the U.S.-CNMI Covenant legislation was signed into federal law," he said.

He encourages Congress to consult with immigration attorneys in the CNMI who could provide details on how the Marianas immigration legislation could be amended to avoid splitting up families of long-term CNMI residents.

Green card for workers

Cohen said Congress must do right by the long-term guest workers who have become an integral part of CNMI society.

"Congress should make legal guest workers who have lived in the CNMI for at least five years eligible to apply, on a one-time basis, for lawful permanent residence in the U.S.," he said.

Congress may, in the not-too-distant future, again consider comprehensive immigration reform.

"If Congress is going to entertain proposals to grant a pathway to citizenship for people who entered this country illegally, it should at least offer permanent residence to long-term CNMI workers who entered this country legally. Conversely, there is no reason to wait for comprehensive immigration reform in order to address the status of CNMI guest workers," he said.

He said making long-term workers eligible for green cards would be the best way to stabilize the CNMI's workforce, short of returning to the system that Congress was determined to eradicate through its passage of the Marianas immigration legislation.

Cohen said the legislation is far from perfect, but it is a creative, flexible and unique statute.

"It must be implemented with a matching creativity and flexibility, and a profound appreciation for the unique circumstances that make it so imperative that we get this right," he added.

KOREAN

From Page 1

and transported the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center where a doctor pronounced him dead at 1:08am yesterday.

David said an unidentified person had called DPS Sunday at 11:20pm about a man lying behind the counter of the New Star Market.

While officers were responding to the area, David said the DPS dispatcher informed all police units responding to the scene that the incident was reported as robbery.

When police officers arrived, they found the store's glass entrance door slightly ajar. When an officer entered the establishment, he found the hallway in front of the cashier's counter in disarray.

The lifeless body of the Korean man was seen lying behind the cashier's counter. An officer checked the victim and determined he was no longer breathing and had no pulse.

The identity of victim is not being released until family members in South Korea are notified about his death.

David said the victim lived within the store's premises; his immediate family members are currently residing in Korea. It was not clear whether the victim had employees.

"We are closely working with the Korean Association here on the island to get a hold of the family members in Korea," he said.

David said information about the cause of the victim's death or if he had any wounds would be released later when the investigation is done.

He said some customers had gone inside the store to buy items and saw the victim lying behind the counter so they ran to their house and called police.

David said detectives are still investigating whether robbery was the motive behind the attack. He has no information yet as to the weapon used.

The DPS spokesman said there are indications that the Korean struggled with the suspect or suspects.

As of yesterday, no one was arrested yet. Investigators were still at the store and its vicinity around noon yesterday. The crime scene is located a few blocks away from Tanapag Church. The store is surrounded by residential houses.

David appealed to the public to call detectives at 664-9045 to 55 or the Crime Stoppers Hotline at 234-7272 for any information about the crime.

Crime Stoppers offers up to $1,000 cash reward to anyone who could provide information leading to an arrest.

On Feb. 27, 2009, Ligardo N. Omisong, a Palauan man, was attacked by a man along a road in San Jose, Saipan. Omisong was taken to CHC where he was in coma for head injuries. On March 5 or six days after the attack, the victim passed away.

2 new Fund board trustees confirmed, sworn into office

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just about two hours after the Senate confirmed their nomination to the Retirement Fund board of trustees, Francisco P. Rosario and Adelina C. Roberto were sworn into office by acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos yesterday.

Rosario and Roberto begin work promptly as they attend today's Retirement Fund board of trustees meeting.

By a voice vote, eight of the nine members of the Senate present at yesterday's session confirmed the nominees.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial nominated Rosario and Roberto on May 12, a day before he met with Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, asking them to join him in writing a letter to the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees to consider an out-of-court mediation in the ongoing court proceedings.

The Retirement Fund sued the government over nonpayment of the required employer contribution to the pension system.

Its current chairman, Juan T. Guerrero, said the parties to the case are way past the negotiation period.

Inos, during a brief swearing-in ceremony yesterday for the two nominees, said the administration looks forward to working with the Retirement Fund board of trustees to find solutions to problems affecting the pension system.

"The administration stands ready to work with the Fund," he said.

Roberto and Rosario complete the eight-member Retirement Fund board of trustees chaired by Juan T. Guerrero. The other board trustees are Pedro Q. Dela Cruz, Sixto K. Igisomar, Benedicta C. Tenorio, Bernardita C. Palacios, and Marian DLG. Tudela.

Roberto, in a brief interview yesterday, said the Retirement Fund lawsuit against the government is a top priority. "Let's see what happens," said Roberto, a businesswoman.

Rosario also said the ongoing court proceeding is a matter of priority. Rosario, the current chief internal auditor for Joeten Enterprises, previously worked as special assistant for planning and management, and as budget officer in the government.

Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes yesterday said he has yet to receive the letter that the administration plans on sending to the board of trustees, which, in turn, could write a letter to Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo to "suspend" the ongoing court proceedings in the case so that the parties can reach an out-of-court settlement.

Phase one of the court hearing began in April, but the court has yet to decide how much is owed by the government to the Retirement Fund.

Government lawyers in the case have said the government owes the Retirement Fund $213 million, while the Fund said it is $215 million.

CRM

From Page 4

comment after the meeting, said there's no determination made that the project needs a major siting permit.

In his one-page letter to the DPL secretary on Friday, Joyner said the CRM One State DEQ Earthmoving and Erosion Control Application Review Form dated Feb. 1, 2008, indicated that a CRM major siting permit would be required for the project.

The review form also advised DPL to visit the CRM office and obtain a permit application for the proposed project, prior to starting any earthmoving activity.

"Despite these two cautions, the project commenced without obtaining an application for a CRM permit," said Joyner in his letter on Friday.

Joyner's letter also said the "One Start agencies individually and collectively critically assessed the potential threats posed by the proposed project and then incorporated adequate and sufficient pro-environmental conditions in an 'Amended One Start Permit' issued to DPL."

"The controls in the amended permit for monitoring the project amply reduce the threats of the project and thereby satisfy CRMO regulatory concerns. Therefore, CRM hereby informs you that an application for a CRM permit in this instance is not required," Joyner told the DPL secretary.

Ray Mafnas, senior policy adviser to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, recommended that all permitting agencies get back together and come up with a solution to the Marpi clearing project.

'Alarmed'

Deleon Guerrero said he's alarmed that CRM has not issued a cease and desist order against DPL or its contractor when it found out that the contractor began earthmoving activity in Marpi without a major siting permit from CRM.

"And then CRM waived the requirements so that the project will continue," he said.

Deleon Guerrero was a former Historic Preservation Office director and therefore he sat on the CRM Regulatory Agencies Board, for 15 years.

"In my 15 years, I've never seen an action by CRM like this," he said.

Rep. Joe Reyes asked whether Joyner would have waived the requirements of a major siting permit if the applicant were a private entity, but his questioning was cut by Tebuteb to give a chance for other members to ask questions.

House Speaker Arnold Palacios said everybody could move on if only there's admission that there's a breakdown in the process of permitting the Marpi project.

"There should have been a major siting permit. …We're finding out now that the contractor is going to change methodology of clearing after clearing one area. That's good, but agencies should have made the recommendations from the beginning," he said.

Palacios was also a former Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary and was on the CRM board, and he is knowledgeable about permitting procedures.

Some 62 hectares of land in Marpi are being cleared of unexploded World War II ordnance, using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency brownfields funding granted to DPL.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on May 20th, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before May 20th.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

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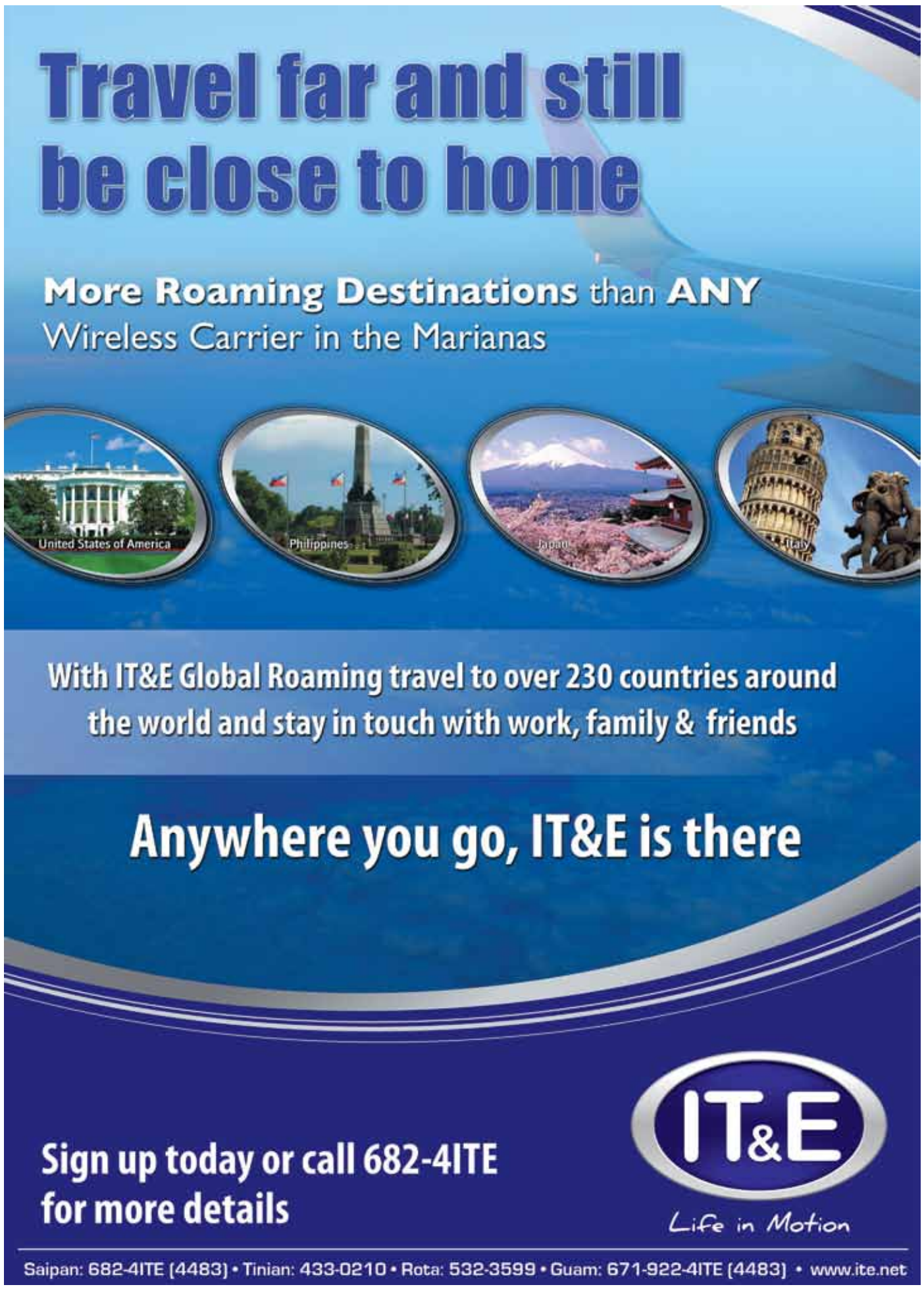
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BOE asks Sablan about reason for Compact Impact cut

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education has asked CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan for the reasoning behind the expected dramatic cut in the CNMI's share of the Compact Impact money next fiscal year.

In an e-mail to Sablan, board vice chair Herman T. Guerrero asked the CNMI delegate for the rationale behind the idea, as proposed to the U.S. Congress by President Barack Obama.

The Public School System has been a major beneficiary of the Compact Impact funds for major repairs and renovations. It actually received in full $5 million-plus allocated by the federal government during previous administrations.

In the past couple of years, the Fitial administration divided Compact Impact funds among critical departments that included the hospital, schools, police, prison, and the Marianas Visitor's Authority. However, PSS always got the biggest share of the pie, amounting to $2 million in the last two years.

This fiscal year, the $2 million Compact Impact fund was folded into the $34.6 million local appropriation provided to the system.

"We need to know what's the rationale behind this proposal … because this will impact PSS," Guerrero told the board during its Thursday meeting.

The U.S. President's FY 2010 budget proposal reduces the Compact Impact money for the CNMI from $5.1 million to $1.9 million next fiscal year due to the 41-percent drop in the number of Freely Associated States citizens who migrated to the CNMI, based on the latest U.S. Census.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan emphasized during board deliberation that the system noted no significant decrease in the number of Federated States of Micronesia students in public schools.

"Based on our SY Report for 2008-2009, there is no significant decrease in the number of students we have from FSM and Micronesian islands," she reported.

Sablan expressed concern over the impact the cut would have on the school's budget in FY 2010.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that for the past 22 years, the CNMI's share in the Compact Impact money has been getting smaller, from $400,000 in 1993 to 1994 until it went up to $1.6 million in 1995 and then dropping to $1 million in 2001.

In 2002, CNMI received $2 million; $840,000 in 2003; and then jumped to $5.1 million in 2004 through 2008.

Guerrero said the board will seek the CNMI delegate's assistance in lobbying against the proposal to reduce the Commonwealth's share of the Compact Impact money.

Miller won't seek ACT re-election

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The incumbent president of the Association of Commonwealth Teachers confirmed yesterday that she won't be seeking re-election in this week's polls due to her being a school administrator now.

Betty Miller, vice principal of San Vicente Elementary School, said only one candidate has so far approached the group to signify interest in becoming the organization's next leader.

Miller, who was elected ACT president last year, is a former classroom teacher who qualified to run for the position. Her appointment to the school administrator position took place after her selection as the group's president, allowing her to serve in both capacities.

"I am unable to run for re-election as I am currently an administrator," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The election was supposed to be done by April 28 but the group delayed it due to the unavailability of an election chairperson.

Miller disclosed yesterday that the group had appointed Angie Wheat, a teacher at Kagman Elementary School, as the new election chairwoman.

"I am happy to announce we are now ready to proceed with our election for president and treasurer of ACT," Miller told teachers in an e-mail message.

Saipan Tribune learned that ballots will be distributed to all school offices this week to begin the voting process.

"All we ask is you cast your vote, staple your ballot closed, and return it to the large manila envelope provided to your office. We ask that all ballots be cast by Friday, May 22. This will allow the committee time to gather, total, and announce the results well in advance of the end of the school year," she said.

In accordance with ACT by-laws, its president will be the candidate for Teacher Representative to the Board of Education, a position vacated by Ambrose Bennett since 2007.

Miller said all teachers are authorized to vote and doesn't require becoming an ACT member in order to participate in the election.

Last year's election involved 290 voters, and Miller is hopeful this election will garner even more voters.

"As of now, only one candidate has come forward for each position. Please do not let this dissuade you from voting. If you support the candidate, please take time to vote for them. If you'd like someone else to be considered for the position, you are welcome to write in the name of another candidate," Miller told teachers.

The association had recommended Miller for appointment to the teacher rep position but the governor did not act on it due to constitutional issues pertaining to the "bargaining agent" required in the statute.

During her reign as ACT president, Miller was active in teachers' activities, concerns, and welfare. Just recently, she spearheaded the presentation to the board committee and PSS leadership the proposal to amend the Highly Qualified Teacher policy by reducing the passing score for Praxis 2.

Miller also initiated the proposal to allow more time for non-English teachers in taking Praxis tests, which was approved by PSS management.

Inos proclaims May 18-23 as MMAC Week

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed yesterday a proclamation designating May18-23 as 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer Week during a simple ceremony at the Bank of Guam office in Garapan.

This event aims to heighten awareness of cancer, one of the main causes of deaths in the CNMI.

Witnessing the proclamation signing ceremony were members of the community, including representatives of the different MMAC sponsors, government officials, cancer survivors, and organizers of the march.

The MMAC week will culminate this Friday evening, May 23, at Hopwood Junior High School track and field.

Commonwealth Cancer Association president Alex Sablan said the money collected from the fundraising campaigns are being used to purchase items for the Commonwealth Health Center. The main beneficiaries are cancer survivors and patients.

Sablan thanked those who were present during the signing ceremony for coming together to support this effort.

Four cancer survivors were present: Bobby Ayres, Nora Sablan, Maggie Camacho, and Annie Hayes.

Title sponsors include Bank of Guam, IT&E, Delta/Northwest Airlines, Take-Care/FHP, Sorensen Media Group, Duty Free Shoppers, and the Joeten Charitable Foundation.

The major sponsors are Bank of Saipan, Saipan Mayor's Office, Younis Arts Studio, Docomo Pacific, Shell Marianas, Bank of Hawaii, Angil Design, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Images Saipan Ltd., and DFS Durables Club Saipan.

Docomo's Absalon Waki Jr. also turned over a $1,000 check donation during the proclamation ceremony. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 09-019

"40 Desktop Computers and Related Equipment for San Vicente Elementary School"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids **for** the purchase of **40 Desktop Computers for San Vicente Elementary School.** The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-019"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 02, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT MASAJI NAKAMOTO IS NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH ANAKS RESORT DEVELOPMENT, INC., NOR ITS AFFILIATES AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF APRIL 20, 2009. ANY TRANSACTION ENTERED AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE WILL NOT BE HONORED BY MANAGEMENT AND WILL BE CONSIDERED NULL AND VOID.

Swine flu cases explode in Japan, most are teens

MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—The number of confirmed swine flu cases in Japan soared Monday to more than 120 as the government moved to shut down nearly 2,000 schools and companies discouraged unnecessary travel to quell the spread of the disease, officials said.

The outbreak in Japan went from just four cases over the weekend to more than 120 as infections were confirmed in the port city of Kobe and nearby Osaka, which is Japan's second-biggest urban area. The new wave of infections did not have a clear connection to foreign travel, as the initial one did, and involved primarily teenagers.

Japan had worked hard to keep the new flu strain from spreading within its island borders, establishing testing centers at airports and encouraging people in high-risk jobs to wear masks and wash their hands carefully.

But those defenses appeared to break down as the number of infections has grown. On Saturday, officials reported the first case of an infection occurring inside the country—not being brought in from abroad—and it remained unclear where the bulk of the newly infected people came into contact with the virus.

Reports said dozens of the students had played in school volleyball games, but officials could not confirm if that had any relation to their infections.

NTV, a commercial TV network, said the new wave would make Japan the fourth-most infected country in the world, after Mexico, the United States and Canada.

AP

Shoppers wear masks as precaution against swine flu at a shopping street in Kobe, western Japan, Sunday, May 17, 2009.

Officials admitted the new figures were disturbing.

"We need to confine the outbreak locally, but we must admit it is getting difficult," said Hyogo Gov. Toshizo Ido. Kobe, where dozens of cases were reported, is located in Hyogo Prefecture, in Japan's southwest.

"We are issuing an epidemic warning," Osaka Gov. Toru Hashimoto said at a news conference. "We must be prepared for a further expansion."

In Tokyo, Prime Minister Taro Aso called a meeting of his Cabinet to coordinate the government's response.

"We must be careful, but with quick treatment patients can recover," he said. "We must respond calmly and appropriately."

According to local officials, 1,466 schools—all elementary, junior and senior high schools in Hyogo—were closed Monday through at least Friday. Several hundred more were closed in Osaka.

Private companies were also taking measures to stem the spread.

The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ said in a statement that an employee at its Kobe branch was confirmed to be infected, and was hospitalized with a fever. The bank has told most of its employees at the branch to stay home, and is operating at a scaled-down level with employees from other branches.

Companies including Shiseido, Daihatsu Motor Co. and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. have reportedly ordered their employees to limit nonessential domestic business trips, particularly to infected regions.

The H1N1 swine flu virus is a new influenza strain. Health officials have warned that it could eventually infect millions of people.

The World Health Organization has confirmed at least 8,480 human cases of swine flu in nearly 40 countries, mostly in the U.S. and Mexico, including 76 deaths.

DPH: Diabetes control program not being phased out

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health assured yesterday that the Diabetes Prevention Program is still operational, following comments that it is being shut down.

Community activist Ed Propst had stated in a recent letter to the editor that the program is being phased out and that DPH is seeing a rash of demotions. His letter stated, "Our health system in the CNMI seems to have been largely ignored and forgotten."

Pedro T. Untalan, Deputy Secretary for Hospital Administration, said that Propst is merely stating his opinion and that he could not comment on Propst's statement.

"In the context of his submission, he is entitled to voice his opinion," said Untalan, who is also the director for Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Programs.

Other than that, the DPH did not react to the other comments written by Propst.

Propst had raised the alarm about the possible closure of the diabetes program, pointing out that there are over 100 dialysis patients in the CNMI, yet there is only a measly $73,000 annual budget for this program.

In a recent letter by Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres to DPH Secretary Kevin Villagomez, the former asked for some information on several matters at the CHC.

These include updates on the status of Nephrology, updates on dialysis machines to be replaced, local expenditure for Fiscal Year 2009, data as to the number of dialysis patients, the status of the Hemodialysis Center and other issues.

A copy of the letter was sent to *Saipan Tribune*. Secretary Villagomez has yet to respond to e-mail inquiries about it.

Meanwhile, the CNMI is still at pandemic alert level Phase 5, as declared by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The DPH Emergency Operations Center's latest health update said that there are no confirmed H1N1 flu cases reported in the CNMI.

As of May 17, WHO reported 39 countries with 8,480 cases of H1N1 and as of May 15, CDC is reporting 4,714 confirmed cases of H1N1 in 47 U.S. states.

NMC to end Spring semester with 10 vacancies

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College will end the Spring semester with 10 more vacancies in various positions, based on the institution's website.

These vacancies were open since last year while other posts depend on the availability of funding for the purpose.

There were six instructor positions being advertised since last year but have remained unfilled up to this time.

These include two instructors for the nursing program, one for medical health services, one in psychology, an instructor for education, and a business department chair who will also do double duty as instructor. Except for the business department chair, all five vacant positions are to be filled pending the availability of funds. The instructor for psychology was advertised since May 30, 2008.

A vacancy for counselor for disability services has also been advertised since December 2008. The announcement was revised in March, to be filled pending the availability of funds.

Another vacant post is the nutrition education extension aide III, which has been open since November last year.

NMC also needs a program manager for its expanded degree and university partnership, which was opened in March 2009, and a program manager for the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, also advertised since March this year. The two positions are to be filled pending available funding.

At the moment, there are approximately 60 instructional staff at the college.

In an early interview, NMC Faculty Senate president Frank Sobolewski said the continuous lack of instructors at the college would impact the quality of education being offered the students.

He earlier disclosed that many instructors are handling "overload" credits to accommodate other classes. In the beginning of the semester, it was learned that some courses and programs were cancelled or dissolved as a result of the problem.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, #1242 Ponphei Ct.
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670)664-4809 Fax No: (670)664-4814
Email: cnmihcplb@gmail.com

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 3:00pm on Saipan. The meeting will be held at Conference Room #3 at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (4/16/09)
V. Chairperson's Report
VI. Director's Report
VII. Investigator's Report
VIII. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
IX. Old Business
  A. HCPLB Funding Crisis
  B. Regulations for Physicians for Board Approval
  C. Regulations for Physician Assistants for Board Approval
  D. Summer Schedule/Staffing
X. New Business:
  A. Legal Counsel Resignation
XI. Applications for Board's Review
  A. New/Renewal Applications
    1. Dr. Larry Hocog
    2. Dr. Gary Ramsey
  A. Pending Application
    1. Dr. Hugh Ross
    2. Dr. Neelu Pal
XII. Miscellaneous Business:
  A. Anonymous Letter (THC)
XIII. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
XIV. Announcements
  A. New Email Address
XV. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Dr. Janet McCullough
Chairperson

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 TEL: (670) 322-6537/8; FAX: (670) 322-6536;
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: voc.rehab@saipan.com

OFFICERS
CHAIRMAN J. Elameto
VICE CHAIR Dr. C. Fernandez
SECRETARY C. Igisomar
FISCAL OFFICER E. Guerrero

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2009 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting Thursday May 21, 2009 at the Bay View Hotel in Rota at 10:00am - 2:00pm.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY ITEM
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Review & Adoption of Agenda
  D. Review & Adoption of Minutes (Mar. 09, 2009)

II. REPORTS
  A. SRC Chairperson
  B. Committee Chairpersons
  C. OVR Director

III. OLD BUSINESS
  A. FY 2010 State Plan Updates
  B. Review & Adoption of Policy Items
  C. SRC/OVR Vacancies
  D. Review of Consumer Forms

IV. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Projects under the ARRA funding
  B. Accessible Mass Transit

V. CONSUMERS' FORUM

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS & MISCELLANEOUS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

SRC Chairperson

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require reasonable accommodations are asked to contact Magin Iginoef at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY), four days in advance for necessary accomodations.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Legislative invitation for SOCA

On behalf of the members of the 16th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Senate President Pete P. Reyes are inviting members of the public to a Legislative Joint Session to receive the 2009 State of the Commonwealth Address.

The Legislative Joint Session will begin at 10am on May 27, 2009, in the chamber of the House of Representatives at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill. ***(PR)***

Red Cross annual meeting on Thursday

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross is having its annual meeting this Thursday, May 21, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Chapter office on Airport Road. All volunteers, donors, and others interested in the Red Cross are welcome to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to hold elections of the voting members of its board of directors, review reports by Chapter directors, and transact other business as it may come before the meeting. (Refreshments will be served). For more information, contact the Chapter office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Live fire releases on Farallon set

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire training and inert mine releases on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla. The schedule date and time is as follows:

- May 19 and 21 from 1pm to 7pm Inert mine releases
- May 21 from 2pm to 7pm Live fire releases

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DPH-081

SUBMISSION: JUNE 01, 2009 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OUTSIDE GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR. JOHN M. TAGABUEL, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER BY FAX TO (670) 664-4871 OR EMAIL TO divbeh1@pticom.com.** NO LATER THAN **MAY 21, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Kagman High School issues progress reports today

Kagman High School progress reports will be distributed today, May 19, 2009, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. The monthly PTSA meeting will be held the same day, from 6pm to 7pm at the school cafeteria. The meeting will also be held via video teleconferencing for all parents, guardians, staff and students. Parents from Marpi, As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag, and Sadog Tasi can go to GTC Elementary School to attend the meeting. For more information call 237-3840 or 237-3832; fax 664-3788. ***(PR)***

Puengin Inetnon resumes this Friday

Puengin Inetnon will resume starting Friday, May 22, at 4:30pm-10-pm at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market for food, drinks, snacks, clothing, arts and crafts. I-Candy will perform and the library's bookmobile will be present. Puengin Inetnon will be held every government payday Friday. The Kagman Komunidat Association is looking for vendors to sell produce and fish due to popular demand by customers. Other vendors are also invited. Call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Kagman Flea Market resumes Saturday

The Kagman Saturday Flea Market will resume starting Saturday, May 23, at 8am at the Kagman Community Center parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. Individuals can sell their used items for only $5 and will be provided with a tent and table. Come and sell your used item at the fastest growing village in the Marianas. Interested individuals can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Pams Resort hosts Family Fun Night

The Palms on Pau Pau Beach, along with Suave, Dove and Axe, is hosting a Family Fun Night set for May 22, at the Palms. This free event starts at 6pm, and will be held at the poolside area. Part of the celebration will be dedicated to the official opening of the Palm's Observatory. It is the very first observatory, equipped with research quality telescopes, in Micronesia. This will be a wonderful opportunity for families to get out and enjoy Stargazing while learning a little bit about astronomy, and having a good time. In addition to the telescopes, face painting, treats and snacks will be offered at the poolside area. For more information about this event, you may call 322-3311. ***(PR)***

Military ID card personnel visit

This is to let all military identification cardholders and all concerned that the 9th Mission Support Command ID Card personnel will be on Saipan to issue new or renewal of Military ID card. They will be at the Army Reserve Center on Saipan on May 18-22, 2009. Their hours are from 8am-6pm.

For any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650 or Maj. Greg Sablan at the Army Reserve Center at 322-6671. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
May 19, 2009

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority thru its Chairman, hereby informs the general public that the CDA Board will hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. QC PROGRAM/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
1. Bridge Capital, LLC

IV. OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Special Meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS
a. HOME Homebuyer/Homeowner Policies & Procedures
b. Refinancing and Loan Modification
c. RD Updates
d. Loan Payment/Collection Request
e. Approved Real Estate Appraisal Companies Request
f. NMHC-Owned Properties For Sale
g. BankPacific Correspondences
h. Mortgage Foreclosure Dormant Docket Rule
IV. CDBG
V. PROGRAM & HOUSING
a. REAC Update
b. Lease Up Update
VI. FIELD OFFICE REPORT
VII. FISCAL AFFAIRS
a. Bank Signatories
VIII. ADMIN & PROCUREMENT
IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS
X. EXECUTIVE SESSION
XI. OTHER MATTERS
a. American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Trainings
XII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ ***MERCED M. TOMOKANE***
Chairwoman of the Board

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 19, 1999

Fair Wage Act tossed back to Legislature

Rejecting claims of differences with the private sector over its regulations, the Department of Labor and Immigration yesterday tossed the pressing issues to the Legislature which must amend questionable provisions of the existing laws. DOLI Sec. Mark Zachares said legislators must deal with the concerns raised by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce against some government policies since they are responsible for passing laws that may not be suitable to doing business in the Northern Marianas. "If they do have problems with the law that instead of running after the executive branch, they should probably address their concerns to the legislative branch," he told reporters.

Repatriation program suspended

The Department of Labor and Immigration has suspended a repatriation program for displaced foreign workers in the Northern Marianas as funds set aside to compensate them have been used by the island government for some 500 illegal Chinese immigrants taking refuge on Tinian. Mark Zachares, labor and immigration secretary, said yesterday the department will resume the program once expenditures are reimbursed by the U.S. government. He did not disclose any specific date as to when they will get refunds, but said the White House has assured the Commonwealth of the reimbursement of all expenses resulting from CNMI's handling of the immigration crisis.

May 19, 2000

CUC prods govt to cut utility expenses

ROTA—The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has prodded Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to implement drastic conservation measures in an effort to cut government utility costs amid its failure to settle unpaid bills that now stand at over $12 million. Despite the governor's earlier pledge to pay about $1.4 million every month to CUC, finance officials have only offered $250,000 per quarter—a proposal that will not effectively reduce the government overall debt, according to CUC Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero. "Utility bills will continue to mount as the proposed payments on the outstanding balance will not be sufficient to liquidate the debt anytime in the near future," he said in a letter to Mr. Tenorio.

'Market demand dictates flight frequency'

The sharp reduction in tourist arrivals to the Northern Marianas was not caused by the elimination of all nonstop Continental Micronesia international flights to Saipan but by more pressing economic factors, airline executives told the U.S. Department of Transportation. In its response to the protest filed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to DOT, Continental Micronesia president Bill Meehan said the slowdown in the number of Japanese tourists to Saipan has, in fact, forced the airline to streamline its operations on the island. Meehan pointed out that Continental Micronesia's decision to drop all nonstop flights to the CNMI could have been an opportunity for other foreign carriers servicing the islands to expand their operations if there was a demand for more airline seats.

May 19, 2003

'BoS had poor loan documentation'

The Bank of Saipan had a long-standing pattern of poor loan underwriting and documentation, and there were times when it did not comply with appropriate procedures. Prosecution witness David Burger admitted this Friday in his testimony at the U.S. District Court, during the cross-examination by Bruce Berline, lawyer of Bert Douglas Montgomery. This was Burger's third day on the witness stand in connection with wire fraud and conspiracy charges against Montgomery, Du-Sean Berkich and former BoS president Tomas Aldan. The three defendants allegedly conspired and defrauded the bank of several millions of dollars.

Dandan pilot reading program improves

Dandan Elementary School's reading program has significantly improved this year, according to the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning. "We've seen a wonderful growth in students based on our assessments," said CNMI PREL program coordinator Jean Olopai. DES was awarded a five-year pilot reading program by the U.S. Department of Education through PREL about two years ago. The program initially focused on kindergarten through third grade, but it was extended to upper level covering grades four to six this year.

Bizwoman of the Year scholarship grants available to NMC students

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business* invite students to apply for the 2009 First Hawaiian Bank *Guam Business* Businesswoman of the Year scholarships for the Fall 2009 Semester.

The program provides student scholarships at three higher education institutions in the Mariana Islands: the University of Guam, Guam Community College and the Northern Marianas College.

Application forms are available from the financial aid offices of all three institutions, at the First Hawaiian Bank branches and the Glimpses of Guam office. Deadline for completed applications is July 31.

The scholarships are intended to "promote higher education by providing financial assistance for college students in their pursuit of professional careers," and are open to both full-time and part-time students. The scholarships will be awarded based on merit, eligibility, a written essay, and financial need. Applicants should have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, senior vice president and region manager for Guam and the CNMI for First Hawaiian Bank, said, "We are delighted to be able to open the Businesswoman of the Year Scholarship Program to even more students in the Marianas, thanks to the generous support from the business community."

Maureen N. Maratita, publisher of Glimpses Publications, said, "This scholarship program is designed to be unique in many ways, and also has the support of community organizations such as the Guam Council of Women's Clubs, the Guam Women's Club, the Korean Women's Association on Guam and Soroptimist International of the Marianas."

Funds for the scholarships were raised through the 2009 Businesswoman of the Year Gala, held at the Hyatt Regency Guam on April 25. The sold-out event was attended by hundreds of supporters of the program. The event raises funds for these scholarships and recognizes women who make a difference in business. The 2009 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award recipient is Lorraine S. Okada, executive manager of Carlsmith Ball LLP and president and owner of Managing Consulting Services. ***(PR)***

Rota students finish anti-drug training

Students from Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja recently graduated from the Pacific Regional Training Institute's Drug Abuse Resistance Education program.

Top student awards were given to Van Cing, Baltazar Mendiola, and Pauline Taisacan. The Leadership Award was presented to Van Cing and Pauline Taisacan for their role as presidents of the school's drug and violence prevention program.

These recent graduates will be heading to Guam for a drug and violence prevention workshop sponsored by the Pacific Regional Training Institute.

DARE provides or reinforces information and skills that enable students to resist peer pressure and other influences to be safe and free from drugs and violence.

Other emphasis is directed toward helping students develop skills and qualities needed to achieve good character and citizenship.

This is the fourth year the PRTI, headed by SFC Edward Maratita Jr., has offered the program to ESFDB students. Maratita is assisted by ESFDB class adviser Mary Rose Lucero. They join other public and private schools in Guam, the Philippines Japan, Hawaii, and Los Angeles in participating in various drug-free, anti-violence, and peace program activities. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's 8th grade PRTI DARE graduates pose with their class adviser, Mary Rose Lucero. From left, Lucero, ESFDB DARE Student Body president Van Cing, Pauline Taisacan, and Baltazar Mendiola. Not in photo is RTI supervisor Edward Maratita Jr.

Northwest named title sponsor of MMAC

Delta/Northwest Airlines will become a title sponsor for the 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer for the third year in a row.

The 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee said that Delta/Northwest Airlines has donated a free ticket to anywhere in Asia, a free ticket to the U.S., plus other travel related items.

The 2009 MMAC Committee has distributed raffle tickets to the MMAC teams to sell to the public for only $5 each. The lucky winners will receive one of several great prizes courtesy of Delta/Northwest Airlines.

"The 2009 MMAC Committee would like to congratulate Delta/Northwest Airlines for becoming a title sponsor for the 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer. All funds raised for this event will be spent locally on cancer awareness programs and other special services provided to cancer patients in the CNMI," the committee said in a statement.

The 2009 MMAC will be held on May 22-23, 2009, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. ***(PR)***

Pesticide safety workshop

The Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service will be conducting a commercial certified pesticide safety and education program training (structural category) on Saipan on May 26-29, 2009. It will be held at the Saipan Grand Hotel from 8am to 4pm.

The structural category pesticide workshop is primarily intended for commercial pest control applicators using restricted use pesticides. This training will focus on the structural building and pests such as termites, roaches, ants and rodents.

This workshop will focus on the principles of pest control, insect biology, environmental concerns, loading and handing, labeling, math calibration, and CNMI Division of Environmental Quality regulations.

Participants must attend the complete training course, pass the pesticide safety examination, and have a Pesticide Safety and Education Program license in order to purchase and use the restricted use pesticides.

DEQ and NMC-CREES will sponsor this workshop.

For more information, contact NMC-CREES' Arnold Route at 234-5498 Ext. 1432; Sid Cabrera at 234-5498 Ext. 1728; Alejandro Badilles at 532-9513, or DEQ's Reina Camacho at 664-8522. ***(PR)***

NOTICE TO ALL CURRENT AND FORMER GARMENT WORKERS

The former Garment Oversight Board (GOB) has established a Garment Workers Trust Fund (GWTF) to assist garment workers who are still located on Saipan with any hardships resulting from their former employment as garment workers.

For example, if you are a former garment worker and are unable to depart Saipan in order to return to your country of origin, this is one of the hardships for which you may apply to the GWTF in order to receive assistance with your repatriation expenses.

Applications for assistance will be reviewed by a panel of three trustees consisting of the former board members of the GOB and approved on a case by case basis, based on a demonstrated need or hardship which is occasioned by an applicant's former status as a garment worker. The maximum amount of any such assistance to any one applicant shall be limited by the trustees and will only be exceeded in cases of exceptional hardship. What constitutes exceptional hardship shall be a determination solely within the discretion of the GWTF trustees.

You may apply for this assistance *ONLY* by submitting a readable written application to the GWTF, there is no special form, but your written application must:
1 - identify the applicant,
2 - describe the type of hardship the applicant is experiencing,
3 - state the name of the last garment factory applicant worked for,
4 - the date applicant stopped working as a garment worker, and
5 - include how applicant can be contacted so the GWTF may inform the applicant if his/her application has been approved.

Please identify yourself and your former employment as a garment worker as accurately as possible. If the GWTF cannot verify your status as a former garment worker, your application will not be acted upon. Applications may be submitted in Chinese or English.

SEND YOUR WRITTEN APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE TO:
GWTF
P.O. Box 505943
Saipan, MP 96950

Applications for this assistance shall only be accepted until August 15th, 2009.

UPON APPROVAL APPLICANTS MUST PRESENT ADEQUATE AND RELIABLE IDENTIFICATION TO VERIFY THAT THEY ARE THE APPLICANT.

THE GWTF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE FORM OF ASSISTANCE THAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO APPLICANTS.

通告致所有现或前成衣厂工人

前成衣监管委员会曾建立一个成衣工人基金， 目的是帮助那些前就职于成衣厂因遭受困境而依然停留塞班的工人.

比如, 你是前成衣厂工人,无法离开塞班,返回自己的国家. 这样的一种困境, 你或许可以向成衣监管委员会提出申请, 寻求回国费用方面的帮助.

包括前成衣监管委员会董事会成员的三位委托人组成工作小组负责申请审核工作. 所有获得批准的申请将根据每个个案情况， 也基于证明有帮助的需要, 或遇到的困境是因为申请人是原成衣厂工人的身份. 所有申请者提出要求帮助的最大金额应该由受托人设定限额, 不可以超过规定的金额, 除非申请人遭遇到不同寻常的困境. 如何定义不同寻常困境将完全由成衣监管委员会受托人斟酌决定.

你或许有资格提出申请帮助. 唯一的办法是向成衣监管委员会递交一份能阅读的书面申请. 申请没有特别格式, 但书面申请必须包括:
1 - 申请人身份
2 - 申请人描述一下目前所经历的困境
3 - 申请人最后工作的成衣厂名字
4 - 申请人离开成衣厂的日期
5 - 如果申请获得批准,成衣监管委员会如何联系申请人

请尽量准确说明自己的身份和前就职于成衣厂的身份. 如果成衣监管委员会无法核实你是否是前成衣厂工人, 将不能受理申请. 所有的申请必须是中文或英文形式.
书面申请可以邮寄到:
GWTF
P.O. Box 505943
Saipan MP 96950

寻求帮助的申请截止日为2009年8月15日

获得批准的申请必须出示恰当的, 令人信服的身份证明以核实是申请者本人.

成衣监管委员会有权对申请人做出何种形式帮助的裁定.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 119

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi bizarre, contemptible

WASHINGTON—Bizarre and contemptible legal charges brought against Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who is due to be tried in Yangon on Monday, have produced a predictable but justified storm of outrage from Western democracies and the United Nations. Everyone from the British prime minister to Bono has condemned the prosecution of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and demanded her release. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has muted American outspokenness about human rights in several other countries and who previously ordered a review of U.S. sanctions against Burma, said she was "deeply troubled" by the "baseless" case.

Just as predictable, unfortunately, has been the relative silence of Burma's neighbors. Singapore and Indonesia—the latter a strengthening democracy—questioned the charges and called for Aung San Suu Kyi's release, as did Japan. But the countries on which Burma relies most—China, India, Thailand and other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—had little or nothing to say. That probably means Burma's ruling generals will feel free to go forward with a trial that could produce a new, five-year prison sentence for the 63-year-old dissident, who has been under house arrest for the past six years.

The charges stem from a strange incident last week in which a troubled, 53-year-old American tourist swam across the lake next to Aung San Suu Kyi's house and pleaded with her to be allowed to stay overnight. She agreed—thus exposing herself to charges of violating the conditions of her home detention. The intrusion by American John William Yettaw, who has also been charged, proved convenient for the regime; Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyers said the term of her home detention was due to expire later this month. A new prison sentence could ensure that she plays no role in planned elections next year, which are meant to institutionalize military rule.

Such a sentence, if it comes, should inform the Obama administration's ongoing review. Humanitarian organizations have been heavily lobbying for a change of policy, arguing that the regime is becoming more open to Western aid and influence, and that the current strategy of tough sanctions hasn't worked. Yet the renewed persecution of this brave and ailing woman—whose party won the last fair election 19 years ago—shows that the generals have no interest in making meaningful concessions to Burma's long-suffering people or to the West. If they did, they would use Monday's court session to drop all charges against Yettaw and Aung San Suu Kyi and allow them both to return home free.

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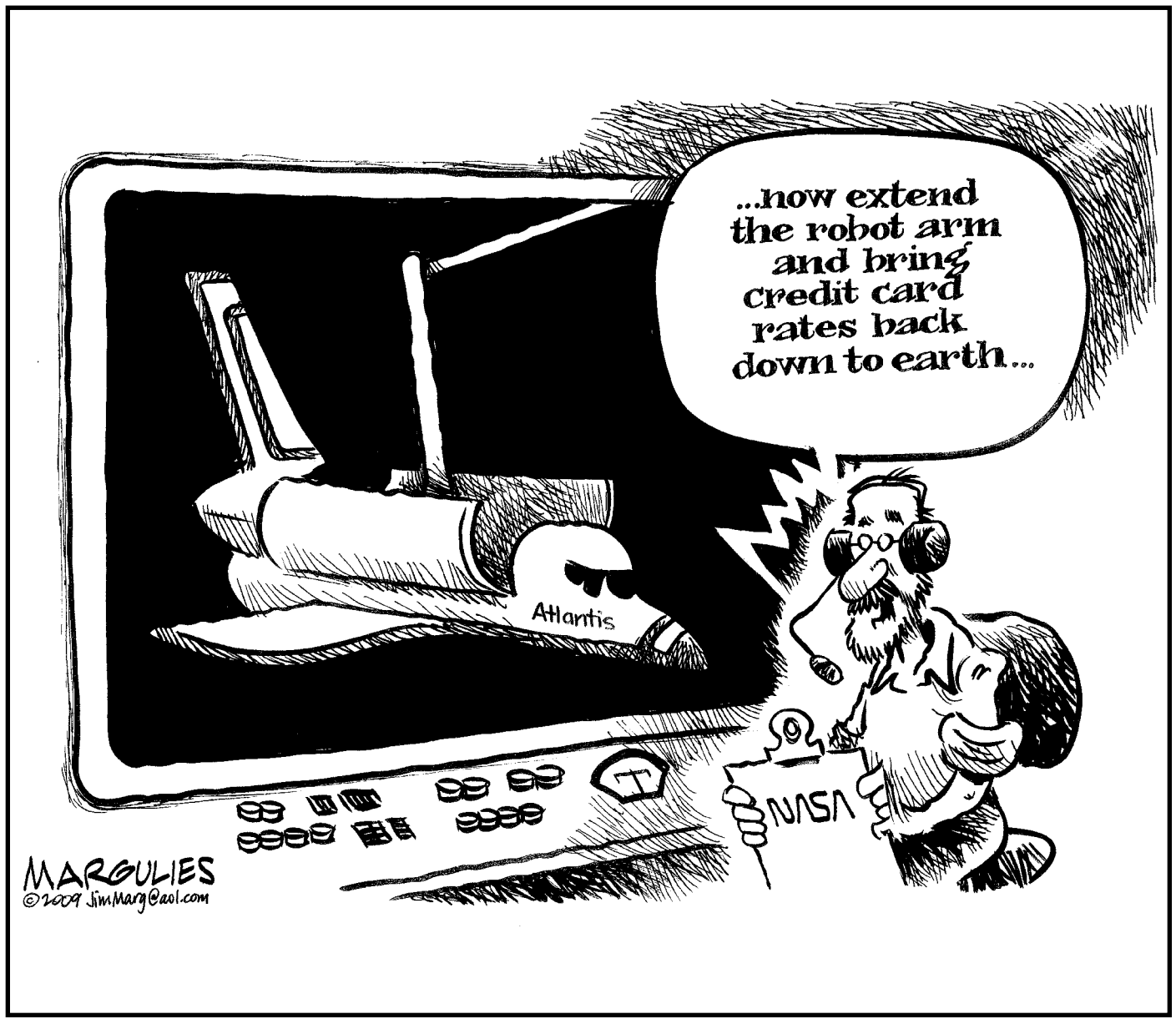


Change? You asked for it...

By MICHAEL KINSLEY
Special to The Washington Post

Even some loyal Democrats are feeling queasy about what will happen if, as seems likely, Al Franken wins the endless dispute over that Senate seat from Minnesota. With Arlen Specter's recent conversion, that would give the Democrats 60 seats, or three-fifths of the Senate, which is a filibuster-proof majority. With a Democratic majority in the House and a Democratic president, suddenly politics seems like a more serious business.

We have endured gridlocked government for so long that the idea of a president and a Congress from the same party enacting the legislation that they promised to enact while they were running for office seems almost unnatural. In the past half-century, one party has controlled both elected branches of government only about a third of the time. Meanwhile, this 60-votes threshold in the Senate has grown on our constitutional arrangements like a third leg coming out of the side of your head. The filibuster used to be a fairly obscure procedural device used mainly by Southerners to block civil rights legislation. And if you wanted to do it, you really had to do it. Actually stopping all other business to talk a piece of legislation to death was a fairly arduous process. Now the whole game is played out in the locker room. Or, as in chess, you look a few moves ahead and claim victory or admit defeat without bothering to go through the motions.

High-church moderates like to claim that a government with the power split between the two parties is desirable. They even claim sometimes that the voters consciously choose divided government, or that they are sending a message that they want sensible compromise and are tired of partisan bickering, etc., etc. Moderistos do not explain how a particular voter would go about doing these things. (How would you even know which way to split your ticket to make sure that you're not just canceling out the votes of a fellow divided-government enthusiast?)

Macaulay, the 19th-century British historian, famously described the American system as "all sail and no anchor." (Hackneyed quote No. 113 in the Columnist's Garden of Pompous Quotations.) I don't get it. Seems to me that most of the time we're almost all anchor and very little sail. But for at least the next two years, we'll be sailing with the wind at our backs and the anchor up our heave-ho me hearties, or something like that. What we'll have is something close to a parliamentary system as in Britain or, in fact, most functioning democracies.

In a parliamentary system, it is assumed that the prime minister commands a majority in the legislature. If the prime minister loses the support of a majority, there is an election or, one way or another, someone else (or possibly the same person) gets a chance to try for a majority. In Britain, the Queen's Speech(spoken by the queen, though written by the prime minister) is a detailed list of legislative promises, just like its American equivalent, the State of the Union address (spoken by the president, though usually written by White House speechwriters). The difference is that the items in the Queen's Speech are likely to be enacted. A State of the Union address is like a department store bridal registry. Sure, ask for that program to put people on Mars (as George W. Bush did in 2004). Ask for Mars while you're at it. Nobody, including you, thinks you're going to get it.

The noisy right-wing brat pack, including Rush and his dittoheads, has been complaining since Newt was a pup about how Congress never gets anything done. It's a corrupt institution, frozen in time by invulnerable incumbency, full of members too busy serving lobbyists and filling out expense reports to attend to the people's business. Now, Congress is ready to get things done with a vengeance.

The president and his party in Congress face the terrifying prospect of fulfilling their campaign promises. They will have no excuse if there is no health-care reform or energy reform, or if there are and they are disasters.

The biggest shock, though, will probably be to the voters. For years they have called for "change," generally unspecified, while enjoying the status quo more than they cared to admit. (They want health-care reform provided that they can keep their own doctor. They want congressional term limits, but they like their own member enough to re-elect him again and again.) They have demanded alchemy from their representatives — expand our benefits and cut our taxes and balance the budget while you're at it — and then staged hissy fits when the politicians didn't produce.

Now, when the voters demand change, they may well get it. We'll see how they like it.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Priestly celibacy: A self-inflicted wound

By SUSAN JACOBY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Should the Catholic priesthood be restricted to single, celibate men? Do clergy restrictions based on gender, marital status or sexual orientation make sense these days?

As an atheist and an ex-Catholic, I cannot claim to be displeased at the spectacle of the Roman Catholic Church continuing to shoot itself in the foot by refusing to ordain women or to allow priests to marry. If I cared about the survival of the Catholic Church, however, I would have to say that the severe priest shortage would end tomorrow if the church simply allowed its preachers to have a normal family and sexual life. But Palestinians and Israelis are going to embrace one another at the Wailing Wall and the Dome of the Rock before the rigid old men who run the Vatican open up the doors of the priesthood to people who want to serve their god and enter into the full experience of loving and being loved by another human being.

The vast majority of American Catholics see no need for priestly celibacy and support the ordination of women. Father Alberto Cutie, the appropriately named Miami priest and television star who was caught embracing an adult female companion on the beach, has received strong support from many of his parishioners and fans. He has said that he loves the women in question and would like to marry her and remain a priest. Fat chance.

Pope Benedict XVI will not change his position on female priests or on priestly celibacy. One of the most ridiculous rationales for priestly celibacy used by the church has always been the notion that the celibacy requirement is not just about sex but about the need for a priest to be fully free to devote himself to the spiritual needs of his parishioners. The notion that a priest somehow becomes better attuned to the needs of his or her flock by forgoing intimate human love is so illogical that it needs no further comment. It may even be more illogical than the rationale for not admitting women to the priesthood, which rests on the biblical depiction of the twelve apostles as men. (By that logic, all priests should be Jews because the biblical Jesus and the Apostles were Jews.)

The priest shortage in the United States and western Europe began to develop in the late 1960s, when many young priests—who had once hoped that the Second Vatican Council would drop the requirement of priestly celibacy—began to realize that the successor to the great-hearted Pope John XXIII was not open to any fundamental change. Large numbers of heterosexual men left the priesthood at that time.

This church, with no room in its priesthood for women or for men who simply wanted to love and live with another adult, then proceeded to turn a blind eye to the pedophile predators whose evil deeds were covered up by the hierarchy for decades.

The Rev. Donald Cozzens, a celibate priest and professor of religious studies at John Carroll University in Ohio, says, "I've asked dozens of men here that showed signs of deep faith if they had thought about going into the priesthood. They all said, 'I've thought of it, but I want to have a family.'" You can be sure that Father Cozzens, the author of Freeing Celibacy, will not be promoted to monsignor or bishop any time soon.

Really, who cares about this other than the old men in the Vatican who want all younger priests to lead the same repressed, rigid, and lonely lives as their elders? In the U.S., an astonishing 25 percent of those raised as Catholics have left the church. Priestly celibacy, like the church's position on birth control and female priests, is part of the mix that has led so many once-loyal Catholics out of the church. As an atheist, I am pleased by news of the rising dropout rate. If I were the pope, I would be really, really worried. Oh, wait. Even if I were a believer, I couldn't become pope because I am a woman.

Susan Jacoby is an author and reporter, and contributor to the On Faith section of washingtonpost.com, from which this article is adapted.

Letters to the Editor

Unconstitutional lawsuits

Your article "Torres turns down offer to be attorney general" (May 13, 2009) once more brought to our attention the difficulty in hiring a top-notch attorney to be attorney general for the Commonwealth. The only way for the government to recruit the best attorney general available is to pay the attorney general a salary of at least $150,000 a year. If elected to the House of Representatives in the upcoming election, I will sponsor legislation to do just that. The attorney general is the single most important government official in the Commonwealth government, maybe even more so than the governor, and I feel that he should be the highest paid employee. We should pay him or her a salary commensurate with the responsibilities and duties of the office.

I would also pay the deputy attorney general at least $100,000 a year. These two officials can make or break the Commonwealth. Many people don't realize that the AG can save the government a lot of money by ably defending the Commonwealth in litigations, and vice-versa, can cost the government huge sums of money by losing in litigations. What I don't like about the constitutional provisions is the requirement that the AG should be a resident of the Commonwealth for three years. I would like for us to be able to recruit from among many very competent attorneys in the mainland.

A case in point: It is my opinion that the ongoing lawsuit against the Fitial administration by the Retirement Fund is unconstitutional, and the AG should have blocked it, resulting in a lot of savings, pursuant to constitutional provisions. The Constitution says, "The Attorney General shall be responsible for… representing the Commonwealth in *all* legal matters...." (emphasis added.) The AG should have challenged the authority of the Retirement Fund board to sue the governor. Despite language to the contrary in the Retirement Fund statute that the board can sue and be sued, the fact is this provision is superseded by the constitution provision. We should all know that even in a situation where the Legislature or the Judicial Branch is being sued, the attorney general is the only official authorized to defend either branch of government because they are both part of the Commonwealth.

I am also curious to know how the judge in this case interprets the Constitution. There was a similar case during the Babauta administration where the judge allowed a lawsuit involving CUC suing the administration to go forward. Notwithstanding the Constitution, there is something awfully wrong with a government that allows lawsuits among itself.

Finally, the Retirement Fund board, and especially the chairman, have one option. If you don't like what the governor is doing about this matter, resign. After all, you people have done enough damage already by denying qualified government workers from retiring. If I were one of you, I'd start talking to a lawyer because you people are in a lot of trouble. The board had no authority to deny anybody from retiring, whether the government is contributing or not.

In the meantime, the governor should just issue a reorganization executive order and wipe out the Retirement Fund board for good; the Retirement Fund has lost a lot of money in the last few years from its investments.

Froilan C. Tenorio
Dandan, Saipan

Ambrose for governor

I knew the title would be an eye catcher but it is not about me but who I believe is best for the CNMI. I stopped writing letters to the editor because there comes a time when it's time to stop talking and to start *walking your talk* and doing something. Like many educators I have stayed away from publicly supporting any candidate but the reality is, if educators don't start being more active about politics in the CNMI, we are bound to continue making the same mistakes when it comes to voting for candidates. Not only do students look up to and respect teachers for guidance but so does the voting public.

Teachers and educators in general are considered to be the most informed group of voters in almost every modern society and it is our job to promote civic education through the application of current events in our society. Although we are forbidden to promote candidates and their political agendas in school, it shouldn't deter educators from being more vocal and active in the politics of the CNMI. In fact, an overwhelming majority of teachers in the mainland play a major role in deciding who wins in their districts through their unions, who are courted by political candidates for support. Our teachers are not organized and we have remained virtually powerless and silent on the politics of the CNMI and it's time for real change!

I'm sure all the gentlemen who are running for governor care about the CNMI but former governor Juan N. Babauta has been the only politician in the 17 years I have taught in the CNMI to really put forth a genuine education platform that he tried very hard to implement but he was met with opposition by the CNMI State Board of Education. I know because I was on the board that fought him and they fought against me for trying to help teachers. Too often we have seen other politicians use education as a vote-getting tool and didn't deliver anything. Educators must change and use their votes to determine the politician. Given the closeness of the past elections, educators have the collective power to make a difference in determining who will be the next governor and lieutenant governor, senator or representative.

Given our economic situation, which is tied directly to federalization and the need for us to work with the federal government, we need a governor with an established record of working with the federal government first and foremost and it is no secret which candidate is best suited for working with the feds. Our living conditions make the decision we are facing in this election the most serious decision for governor since the creation of the Commonwealth.

I'm sure everyone with common sense knows this election is not about the past but the future of the CNMI. I will be the first to say we must consider the past record of candidates but more important and the ultimate goal is to determine the best candidate with the potential for a better future. I encourage everyone to speak out on the election regardless of the candidate they support, especially educators, but please stick to the candidates and issues—not me.

Ambrose Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

A violation of law

In an article a few days ago, Board of Education member Galvin Deleon Guerrero expressed concerned about the "plight" of students who have taken religion courses in private schools and whose parents transferred them to public school when they can no longer afford the tuition rates. Committee on Instruction and Curriculum chair Tanya King made a recommendation for the public school curriculum to be changed to accommodate these students by allowing religion courses to be accepted as electives to fulfill the 28-credit requirement to graduate.

What I'm wondering is how can this even be a debate? Do they not know laws as well as I, a 17-year-old public school student? Do they not know the doctrine of "separation of church and state"? This debate doesn't nearly offend me quite as much as the idea that these officials are part of the Board of Education, and don't seem to know this aspect of government! This should not even be a question, let alone a debate. Also, the parents of these kids should be well aware of the circumstances of enrolling their children in private schools, and the consequences of transferring them to a public school system.

The very first Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." This is known as the establishment clause, and in the landmark case of *Everson v. Board of Education* (1947), Justice Hugo Black stated that "neither a state nor a federal government…can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions, or prefer one religion over another…" What the BOE, or Galvin DLGuerrero, is proposing to do is violate the Constitution of the United States as well as an established case law. In the case of *Lemon v. Kurtzman* (1971) the court ruled that, to be constitutional, state aid (in this case, the acceptance of religion courses for credit) to parochial schools must have a clear secular nonreligious purpose, and, among other things, avoid "excessive government entanglement with religion." If this does not emphasize the fact that the proposal to allow PSS curriculum to accept religion courses is in violation of the law, I don't know what does. Accepting religion courses as credit to graduate from a public school is just as bad as having it taught. The only person who has his wits about him on the BOE is the vice chair, Herman Guerrero, and for that, I applaud him.

Kalani A. Reyes
Dandan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

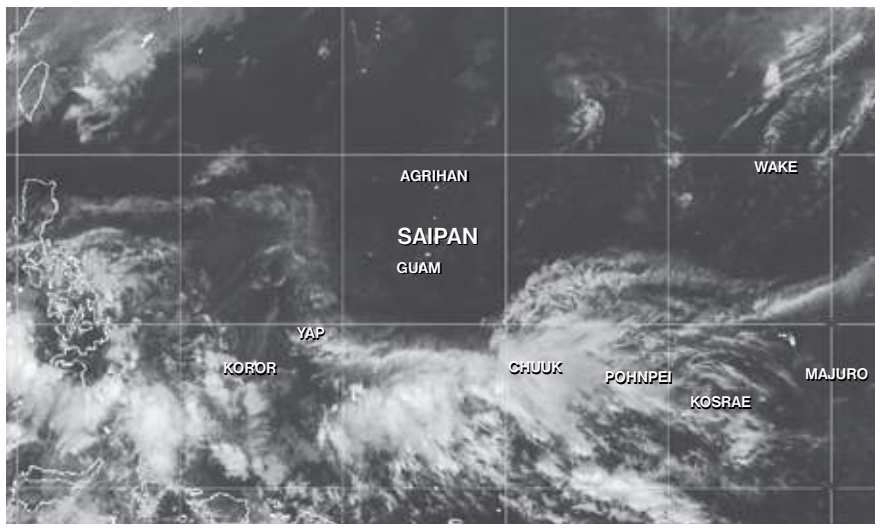
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲88	▼79
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲90	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼46
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲95	▼64
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼68
London	Showers	▲61	▼51
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲80	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲66	▼48
Miami	Rain	▲83	▼71
New York	Sunny	▲72	▼53
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼58
Paris	Cloudy	▲68	▼54
Pusan	Sunny	▲79	▼61
Rome	Sunny	▲82	▼58
Salem	Showers	▲60	▼40
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼50
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼55
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼61
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲76	▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence and upper-level divergence are combining to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over large parts of Micronesia in two areas. One area near Palau is west of a line from 8N134 to EQ138E. The second area extends from southeast of Yap eastward across Chuuk to near Pohnpei and is bounded by a line from 4N139E to 10N153E to 6N158E to 1N144E back to 4N139E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers in two areas. One area near the equator is south of a line from 2N153E to EQ160E. The second area south of Kosrae is within 75 miles of a line from 4N163E to 3N165E. A surface trough near Minami Tori Shima extends from 23N154 to 25N154 with scattered showers within 125 miles of the trough. An old shear line northeast of Wake Island extends from 25N165E to 23N170E then eastward beyond the date line at 22N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 200 miles north of the shear line. A surface trough well northeast of Majuro extends from 12N175E to 16N175E with scattered showers within 125 miles of the trough.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:20 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:00 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
3:24 PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:20 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:28 AM	1:43 PM
Wednesday	2:04 AM	2:23 PM
Thursday	2:42 AM	3:26 PM
Friday	3:24 AM	4:23 PM
Saturday	4:10 AM	5:24 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

These cars have got to go: Dealer cuts mean deals

DETROIT (AP)—At 789 Chrysler lots across America sit 44,000 potential bargains, cars and trucks that are stuck between shellshocked dealers and a troubled company that no longer wants their services.

The dealers have just a few weeks to sell the Chryslers, Dodges and Jeeps or risk losing thousands of dollars on them, giving people who want a car on the cheap a serious chance for a deal.

"You've got some very good negotiating power," said Dave Champion, director of automobile testing for Consumer Reports magazine. "(Dealers are) really looking to shift this inventory. It's just stacking up all around them."

On Thursday, Chrysler LLC asked a New York bankruptcy court to end its franchise agreements with the dealers, casting them aside so the automaker can move forward as a new company with a leaner network of about 2,400 showrooms.

General Motors Corp. took a similar step on Friday, giving notices to 1,100 dealers that it no longer wants them. On their lots sit 65,000 Chevrolets, Buicks, GMCs, Pontiacs and Cadillacs, but at GM, the dealers' situation isn't as dire.

AP

In this May 14, 2009 file photo, Kelly Blue Book employee, Victor Aguilera, right, keeps inventory on a mobile computer terminal at the Star Chrysler Jeep dealership in Glendale, Calif.

GM isn't in bankruptcy—at least not yet—so its dealers have more options to fight the move, which the company doesn't plan to implement until October of 2010. They also have more time to sell the vehicles, plus GM's dealer agreements also require the company to buy back cars and trucks that meet certain requirements on age and mileage.

Both automakers say they have too many dealers for too few sales. For years they have wanted to get rid of underperforming showrooms to expand the market area of healthier dealers. The moves would give the stronger dealers higher profits and more money to spend on marketing, facilities and personnel, making them more competitive with Japanese automakers.

But inside the 789 Chrysler showrooms to be cast aside, fear is starting to set in as dealers try to figure out what to do with expensive inventories that weren't selling well even before the Auburn Hills, Mich., automaker entered bankruptcy protection last month.

"They've told us that the inventory is our problem," said Keith Hollern, one of the owners of a Dodge dealer in Windber, Pa. "Want to buy one? We're having a fire sale."

Dealers borrow money to buy their inventories, then repay the loans and make a profit when the vehicles are sold. But Chrysler sales were down 46 percent the first four months of the year, so many dealers have been paying interest for months. Even if the vehicles are sold at cost, dealers still lose thousands in interest payments.

Chrysler doesn't have the money to buy back the vehicles, said company spokeswoman Kathy Graham, but it also doesn't want to leave dealers in a bind or see the inventory flood the market at bargain prices.

So it has signed a deal with GMAC Financial Services, Chrysler's new finance company, to float loans to remaining dealers that Chrysler plans to keep so they can take on the 789 dealers' unsold inventory. The deal, though, doesn't include about 4,000 2008 models still on the lots.

Obama budget chief: Economy almost bottomed out

WASHINGTON (AP)—The worst seems to be over, President Barack Obama's budget director said Sunday. But he also warned against taking signs of economic recovery as a reason to celebrate or delay changes in health care policy.

Peter Orszag said the nation's economy appears to have bottomed out, even as the White House prepared to revise its budget projections to reflect higher-than-expected unemployment. He said an improving economy and changes to how the United States provides health care would help narrow federal deficits.

"I think what happened is the free-fall in the economy seems to have stopped and we're—I guess the analogy (is) there are some glimmers of sun shining through the trees, but we're not out of the woods yet," said Orszag, the director of the Office of Management and Budget. "We do have more work ahead."

Work, Orszag said on CNN's "State of the Union," that would include passing this year Obama's health care plans despite the economic crisis.

"Let's be very clear. We've always said health care reform has to be deficit neutral over a five- or 10-year window and much better than that over the long term," said Orszag, whose knowledge of health policy has strengthened his Cabinet-level position. "So we are committed to making sure health care reform is self-financing and also brings down costs over time, both for families and for the federal government."

The administration, however, faces serious challenges. Some 1.3 million jobs have been lost since February and the auto and financial industries are in precarious positions.

Obama's Democratic allies have been reluctant to endorse the White House's health proposals while Republicans have vowed to stop them; Republican National Committee chairman Michael Steele told NBC's "Meet the Press" that he doesn't think health care will pass this year.

Meanwhile, Orszag said the administration would update its budget numbers in the coming months.

"You have to remember the deficit is very sensitive to the state of the economy," said Orszag, noting that officials always planned to revise those figures. "As the economy starts to recover the deficit comes down quickly."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil hovers above $56 as rally peters out

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above $56 a barrel Monday in Asia as traders backed off last week's push to above $60 amid signs of weak crude demand. Benchmark crude for June delivery was up 19 cents to $56.53 a barrel midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Monday, the contract dropped $2.28 to settle at $56.34. A series of lower forecasts for world oil consumption last week undercut investor optimism that a global economic recovery was imminent. The International Energy Agency, the U.S. Energy Information Administration and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries all cut crude demand expectations.

Toyota rolls out new Prius amid hybrid price war

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota rolled out the revamped Prius on Monday, and said it already had 80,000 advance orders in Japan for the remodeled hybrid amid intensifying competition with Honda's rival offering, the Insight. The world's largest automaker said it aims to sell up to 400,000 units globally a year of the car. "We are resting the future of cars in this model," said incoming president Akio Toyoda, the grandson of the company's founder, who drove the new model onto a stage at a packed Tokyo showroom. Both Toyoda's presence and new Prius are symbolic of Toyota Motor Corp.'s pursuit of a turnaround from its worst annual loss since its 1937 founding.

Court case reveals ugly infighting at Motorola

By PETER SVENSSON
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

It's a white-collar worker's nightmare: giving a presentation that gets you fired.

It happened to the chief financial officer of Motorola Inc. this year. And the lawsuit he filed afterward provides a rare peek into dysfunctional relationships at the top of a major company.

Motorola has gone so far as to claim it fired the CFO "for cause"—a term often reserved for suspected embezzlers—while the former executive says he was canned for blowing the whistle on big problems.

The case represents more trouble for the cell phone maker, which has been struggling with billion-dollar losses and laying off thousands of workers.

Paul Liska, 53, walked into a board subcommittee meeting Jan. 28 and fired a broadside at the Schaumburg, Ill.-based company's ailing cell phone division. Liska said a board member told him the next morning that the presentation "sure did poke a stick into the hornet's nest."

That was probably Liska's intent. But the hornets that flew out from that nest went for him, not his intended target—the head of Motorola's cell phone division.

Not all of Liska's presentation can be seen in the public records accompanying his lawsuit. Some parts have been blotted out by Motorola so as not to reveal business secrets. Liska and the company declined to comment for this story, citing the litigation.

But in the revealed parts of the presentation, Liska pointed out to Motorola directors that the cell phone unit, Mobile Devices, missed its sales projection for the preceding three months. Then, he said, the projections for the current year were based on rosy assumptions. In addition, he attacked the unit for lacking a forecast for 2010.

He finished by warning that with each passing day, Mobile Devices was making commitments and decisions "that will be increasingly costly to unwind should the board later decide on a different strategy."

That was a stab at Sanjay Jha, a rising star of the wireless world recruited by Motorola last August to head Mobile Devices and make it an independent company.

Jha has his work cut out for him. Motorola rode high for a few years on the success of the Razr phone, but as the phone's popularity faltered, the company has struggled to develop a worthy successor. Losses have piled up in its cell phone division, and the company is now propped up mainly by its other two divisions, which make things like police radios and cable TV set-top boxes.

Stock rally stalls as investors await new catalyst

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock market has run out of reasons to rally, at least for now.

After a two-month surge that saw the Dow Jones industrials average soar 31 percent and the Standard & Poor's 500 index shoot up 37 percent, investors gave up some of those gains last week. As the new week begins, there doesn't seem to be any catalysts that could restart the rally.

The market barreled higher as investors realized that worst-case scenarios in the banking industry weren't going to happen. Indications that the recession was slowing also gave investors reason to buy at a pace not seen in decades.

Now though, with dire forecasts no longer priced into stocks, investors will have to hunt for signs that any economic recovery is beginning to take hold and that earnings are returning to more normal levels. Those signs are likely to come in the form of retail sales and consumer confidence reports as well as quarterly earnings announcements, but few are expected this week.

"My sense is we'll be sideways going into (this) week," said Timothy Speiss, chairman of the Personal Wealth Advisors division at New York-based Eisner LLP. "It's like watching grass grow right now."

Dan Genter, chief executive and chief investment officer of Los Angeles-based RNC Genter Capital Management said the rally helped stocks get back to trading at a fair value, or a price that's based more on the fundamentals of a company's performance than fears of an economic collapse.

"In the near term, it's really hard to break out of that 850 to 950 trading range," Genter said, referring to the S&P 500. The index closed last week down 5.2 percent.

Analysts say the market is also not likely to return to the 12-year lows it hit in early March because investors are more confident now.

Genter said there is still plenty of money waiting to be invested. If the market pulls back further, investors who missed out on the spring rally are likely to get back into the market, which could lend some support to prices.

Big stock moves in the coming week would have to come from a "shock" announcement such as a retailer going out of business or surprises in the Federal Reserve's minutes from its April meeting, said Jeffrey Phillips, chief investment officer at Troy, Mich.-based Rehmann Financial. The minutes will be released Wednesday.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Stuck bolt, dead battery bedevil Hubble repairs

HOUSTON (AP)—Spacewalkers' specially designed tools couldn't dislodge a balky bolt interfering with repairs Sunday at the Hubble Space Telescope. So they took an approach more familiar to people puttering around down on Earth: brute force. And it worked. But it set spacewalkers so far behind that they couldn't get all their tasks done. Atlantis astronaut Michael Massimino couldn't remove an inch-and-a-quarter long bolt attaching a hand rail to the outside of a scientific instrument he needed to fix. The rail had to be removed or at least bent out of the way.

Moderate quake rocks Los Angeles area

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A moderate earthquake jolted the Los Angeles region late Sunday, shattering glass, setting off alarms and fraying nerves. There were no reports of any major injuries or damage. The magnitude-4.7 quake hit at 8:39 p.m. about 10 miles southwest of downtown Los Angeles and three miles east of Los Angeles International Airport, according to a preliminary report by the U.S. Geological Survey. The quake was followed minutes later by at least three smaller aftershocks, with the largest registering at magnitude-3.1. The quake jiggled the greater Los Angeles region for about 10 to 15 seconds and was felt as far south as San Diego, said USGS seismologist Susan Hough.

WTC emergency drill evokes memories of Sept. 11

NEW YORK (AP)—It was an emergency drill, yet the scene of hundreds of firefighters, police officers and other first responders hustling around the World Trade Center site Sunday evoked the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. Firefighters carried oxygen tanks, hoses and heavy axes into an underground train station, while police and other emergency personnel helped those playing injured—all part of a large disaster response exercise at ground zero. More than 800 first responders participated in Sunday's mock terrorist attack, which simulated an explosion on a New Jersey-bound PATH commuter train in a tunnel. The police, firefighters and other emergency personnel joined about 150 volunteers, who posed as injured passengers smudged with grime and fake blood.

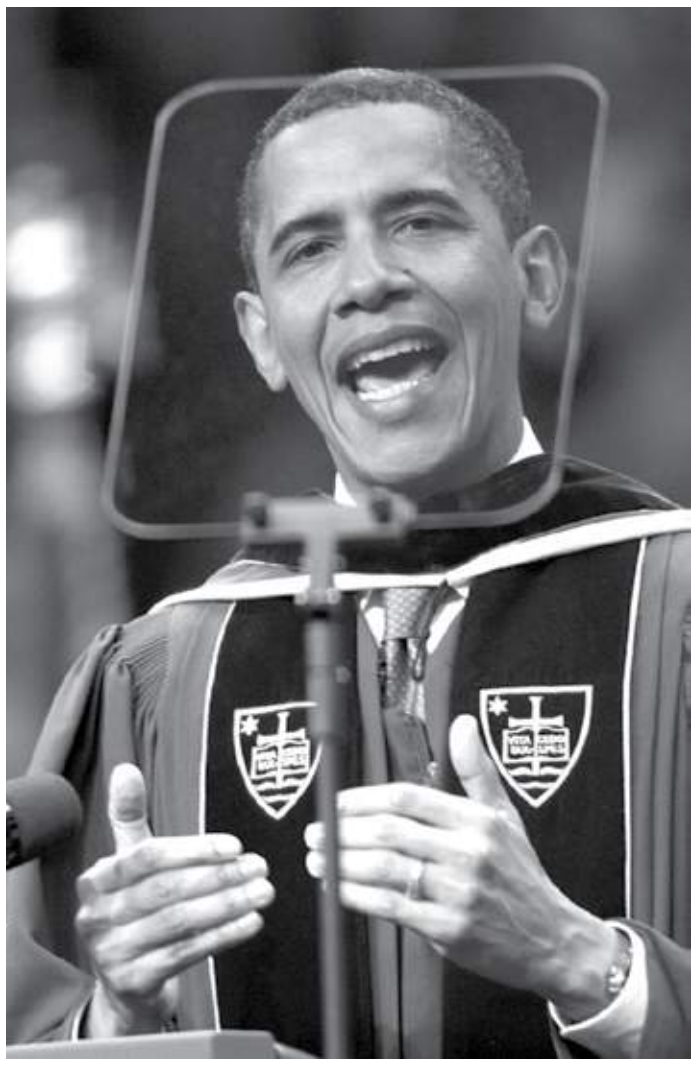
Obama calls for understanding in Notre Dame speech

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP)—President Barack Obama strode head-on Sunday into the stormy abortion debate and told graduates at America's leading Roman Catholic university that both sides must stop demonizing one another.

Obama acknowledged that "no matter how much we want to fudge it ... the fact is that at some level, the views of the two camps are irreconcilable." But he still implored the University of Notre Dame's graduating class and all in the U.S. to stop "reducing those with differing views to caricature. Open hearts. Open minds. Fair-minded words. It's a way of life that always has been the Notre Dame tradition."

One of the noisiest controversies of his young presidency flared after Obama, who supports abortion rights but says the procedure should be rare, was invited to speak at the school and receive an honorary degree. "I do not suggest that the debate surrounding abortion can or should go away," the president said.

The Rev. John Jenkins, Notre Dame's president, introduced Obama and praised the president for not being "someone who stops talking to those who disagree with him." Jenkins said too little attention has been paid to Obama's decision to speak at an institution that opposes his abortion policy.



AP

President Barack Obama delivers his commencement address through a teleprompter during commencement ceremonies at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., Sunday, May 17, 2009.

Ahead of Obama's address, at least 27 people were arrested on trespassing charges. They included Norma McCorvey, the plaintiff identified as "Roe" in the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. She now opposes abortion and joined more than 300 anti-abortion demonstrators at the school's front gate.

More than half held signs, some declaring "Shame on Notre Dame" and "Stop Abortion Now" to express their anger over Notre Dame's invitation to Obama.

Obama entered the arena to thunderous applause and a standing ovation from many in the crowd of 12,000. But as the president began his commencement address, at least three protesters interrupted it. One yelled, "Stop killing our children."

The graduates responded by chanting "Yes we can," the slogan that became synonymous with Obama's presidential campaign, as well as "We are ND." Obama seem unfazed, saying Americans must be able to deal with things that make them "uncomfortable."

The president ceded no ground. But he said those on each side of the debate "can still agree that this is a heart-wrenching decision for any woman to make, with both moral and spiritual dimensions.

"So let's work together to reduce the number of women seeking abortions by reducing unintended pregnancies, and making adoption more available, and providing care and support for women who do carry their child to term."

He said he favored "a sensible conscience clause" that would give anti-abortion health care providers the right to refuse to perform the procedure.

Before taking on the abortion issue, Obama told graduates they were part of a "generation that must find a path back to prosperity and decide how we respond to a global economy that left millions behind even before this crisis hit an economy where greed and short-term thinking were too often rewarded at the expense of fairness, and diligence, and an honest day's work."

Obama's appearance appeared additionally complicated by fresh polls that show Americans' attitudes on the issue have shifted toward the anti-abortion position.

Assistant principal is 1st NYC swine flu death

NEW YORK (AP)—A school assistant principal who was sick for several days with swine flu on Sunday became the city's first death linked to the virus and the nation's sixth.

Mitchell Wiener, who worked at an intermediate school in Queens, died Sunday evening, Flushing Hospital Medical Center spokesman Andrew Rubin said. Wiener, who had been hospitalized and on a ventilator, had been sick with the virus for nearly a week before his school was closed on Thursday. Complications besides the virus likely played a part in his death, Rubin said.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the death of Wiener, who was 55 and had taught for decades, "is a loss for our schools and our city."

"He was a well-liked and devoted educator," Bloomberg said in a statement.

Wiener was hired as a substitute teacher in March 1978, then as a mathematics teacher, working in that position until 2007. Since then, Wiener had been employed as an assistant principal at I.S. 238, also known as the Susan B. Anthony Intermediate School, in the Hollis neighborhood.

Besides Wiener, no one else in New York City has become seriously ill from the virus. As of Sunday afternoon, health officials had reported five other deaths in the U.S.: three in Texas, one in Washington state and one in Arizona.

Most people sickened from the swine flu, or the H1N1 virus, have complained of mild, seasonal flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, body aches and fatigue.

The city's first outbreak of swine flu occurred three weeks ago, when about 700 students and 300 other people associated with a Catholic high school in Queens began falling ill following the return of several students from vacations in Mexico, the epicenter of the outbreak. The school was closed.

Five more city schools were to close Monday because of concern for swine flu, bringing the total to 11, including Wiener's.

City health officials announced Sunday that four Queens public schools and one Catholic school would close for up to five school days. Three of the public schools are in the same building in Flushing. Each school had students with flu-like illness last week.

The latest school closings will affect nearly 3,000 students. Schools will be providing curriculum material online, and parents will be able to pick up materials at schools and other locations, schools Chancellor Joel Klein said.

Obama taps aide to guide nominee for Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AP)—A seasoned Democratic political operative will guide President Barack Obama's eventual Supreme Court nominee on Capitol Hill, where the Senate's top Republican on Sunday refused to rule out a filibuster.

Stephanie Cutter is expected to leave her job as an adviser to Treasury Secretary Geithner and move next door to the White House, an administration official said. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss personnel decisions and strategy.

Cutter, a veteran of presidential campaigns and Senate politics, is expected to coordinate the announcement and confirmation hearings for Obama's pick to replace Justice David Souter, who is retiring. Democrats control the Senate, although the White House does not expect an automatic confirmation for the lifetime appointment.

Republicans are keeping all paths open. Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said he would not rule out a filibuster. During confirmation hearings for Justices Samuel Alito and John Roberts, McConnell opposed using the procedural move, which could indefinitely delay votes on a nominee.

"Under the rules of the Senate, all things are possible," McConnell told "Fox News Sunday."

McConnell added that he did not know how his party would respond, given Obama has yet to announce a pick.

The GOP has only 40 senators, giving them little chance of blocking the nominee. That hasn't stopped conservative groups from urging senators to sharply question the judicial philosophies of the president and his nominee.

Cutter will shape the White House's message during the high-volume debate on the Hill and in the media. She knows the turf well; she coordinated the Democrats' opposition to President George W. Bush's Supreme Court nominees and was a frequent Democratic spokeswoman.

A former senior adviser to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., she was Sen. John Kerry's top spokeswoman when he sought the White House in 2004. Last year, she joined Obama's campaign as an adviser and became Michelle Obama's top aide.

After Obama's election, Cutter moved to the Treasury Department, where she has advised Geithner as he has overseen a troubled economy and bailed out banks and auto companies.

Scientists now trying to outflank HIV/AIDS virus

WASHINGTON (AP)—Like a general whose direct attacks aren't working, scientists are now trying to outflank the HIV/AIDS virus.

Unsuccessful at developing vaccines that the cause the body's natural immune system to battle the virus, researchers are testing inserting a gene into the muscle that can cause it to produce protective antibodies against HIV.

The new method worked in mice and now has proved successful in monkeys, too, they reported Sunday in the online edition of the journal Nature Medicine. The team is led by Dr. Philip R. Johnson of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

That doesn't mean an AIDS vaccine for people is in the wings, Johnson said. Years of work may lie ahead before a product is ready for human use.

Nevertheless, the report was welcomed by Dr. Beatrice Hahn, an AIDS researcher the University of Alabama at Birmingham, who was not part of Johnson's team. "It basically shows there is light at the end of the tunnel," she said in a telephone interview.

"It shows thinking outside the box is a good idea and can yield results, and we need perhaps more of these nonconventional approaches," she added.

Asia

Sri Lanka army: 4 prominent rebel leaders killed

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Troops battling the last pockets of rebel resistance in northern Sri Lanka discovered the bodies of four top Tamil Tigers, including the supreme leader's eldest son and the group's political chief, the military said Monday.

But hundreds of special forces troops and infantry soldiers were scouring the smoking war zone for signs of rebel chief Velupillai Prabhakaran and his top deputies, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said, after the insurgents declared their quarter-century fight had reached its "bitter end."

"He's still there in that area, we haven't found him yet," Nanayakkara said.

Prabhakaran's capture, dead or alive, is crucial to bringing closure to this war-wracked Indian Ocean island nation. If he were to escape, he could use his large international smuggling network and the support of Tamil expatriates to spark a new round of guerrilla warfare here.

During previous rounds of fighting, Prabhakaran has reportedly told his bodyguards to kill him and burn his body beyond recognition rather than allow his capture.

Tamil Tiger fighters, as well, have been trained to commit suicide rather than be taken, and many wear cyanide capsules around their necks.

Troops were waging gunbattles Monday with the last remnants of the rebel group hiding in bunkers in a tiny area about the size of three football fields placed side by side, Nanayakkara said.

"Mopping up operations are still going ahead in the area," he said.

Earlier, troops found the body of Prabhakaran's eldest son, Charles Anthony, who was reportedly also a leader of the rebel group. Prabhakaran has three children and Charles Anthony—named after a rebel leader who died earlier in the war—was the only one thought to be fighting along with his father.

The Defense Ministry said special forces also found the bodies of the rebels' political wing leader, Balasingham Nadesan, the head of the rebels' peace secretariat, Seevaratnam Puleedevan, and one of the top military leaders, known as Ramesh. The statement said the bodies of many more rebels were scattered about the area and were not yet identified.

The Tamil Tigers were considered one of the world's best armed and most sophisticated insurgencies, with a conventional army, artillery pieces, a significant naval wing and even a nascent air force. But government forces ousted the rebels from the shadow state they controlled across a wide swath of the north in recent months and brought the group to its knees. Thousands of civilians were reportedly killed in the recent fighting.

Senior diplomats had appealed for a humanitarian cease-fire in recent weeks to safeguard the tens of thousands of civilians trapped in the war zone, but the government refused and many here grew angry at what they saw as unwanted foreign interference.

On Monday, more than a thousand angry Sri Lankans protested outside the British Embassy in Colombo, pelting it with rocks and eggs and burning an effigy of British Foreign Minister David Miliband and throwing it inside the compound. Protesters held posters calling Miliband a "white Tiger," and several tried to climb the embassy's high walls.

AP

This handout photograph provided by Sri Lanka's army, dated Saturday, May 16, 2009, shows Sri Lankan soldiers carrying their national flag, center, along with their unit flags at a site they say is the last strong hold of the Tamil tiger rebels close to the war front in Kariyalamullivaikkal, Sri Lanka.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Staid in China: Yet-to-open sex park demolished

BEIJING (AP)—This investment turned out to be as risky as it was risque. A sex theme park that featured explicit exhibits of genitalia and sexual culture is being demolished before it can even open, a government spokesman in southwestern China said Monday. The park, christened "Love Land" by its owners, went under the wrecking ball over the weekend in the city of Chongqing, said the spokesman, who like many Chinese bureaucrats would give only his surname, Yang. Yang refused to give the reason for the demolition or other details. However, photographs of the adult-only park had circulated widely on the Internet over the weekend, prompting widespread mockery and condemnation.

Police: Afghan soldiers kill 3 civilians

KABUL (AP)—A group of Afghan army soldiers opened fire in a market in eastern Afghanistan early Monday, killing three shopkeepers, police said. The three soldiers are being held in an army compound following the shooting in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, said provincial Police Chief Gen. Mohammad Ayub Salangi. A police spokesman had previously said four were arrested. Salangi did not provide further details, saying they are still investigating. A spokesman for Nangarhar's governor confirmed three dead civilians and one wounded.

Maoists to block Nepal parliament vote for new PM

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Former Maoist rebels announced Monday they would block a parliament vote to elect a new prime minister, a tactic that could prolong Nepal's political crisis. Narayan Kaji Shrestha, deputy leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), said the party would not allow parliament to function unless their demands are met. The Maoists want the president to sack the army chief—an order issued by the previous Maoist-led government of Pushpa Kamal Dahal, which the president overturned, leading Dahal to resign May 4 and the collapse of his coalition. An alliance of 22 political parties filed an application in parliament on Sunday claiming they have enough support to form a new coalition government, and called for a parliamentary vote to elect veteran communist leader Madhav Kumar Nepal as prime minister.

Security tight at Suu Kyi trial in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Riot police behind barbed wire barricades ringed a notorious prison where pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi went on trial Monday for allegedly harboring an American man who swam to her lakeside home.

The tight security came as activist groups, which spearheaded an uprising against Myanmar's military rulers in 2007, called for peaceful protest rallies in front of Yangon's Insein prison until Suu Kyi is freed. More than 100 Suu Kyi supporters were able to pass through one of the barricades.

Authorities said the trial began about 10:30 a.m. (0300 GMT Monday; 11 p.m. EDT Sunday) but no other information was immediately available.

The ambassadors of Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy as well as an Australian diplomat were barred from entering the prison, but the U.S. consul was allowed into the prison compound since a U.S. citizen, John William Yettaw, also was on trial along with Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi

Yettaw's motives for entering Suu Kyi's compound earlier this month remain unclear and her supporters have expressed anger at him for getting the Nobel Peace laureate into trouble. Suu Kyi's lawyers have said he was not invited to her residence, and that she told him to leave.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Drake Wiesert said it was unclear if the consul would be allowed to attend the court proceedings, or whether Yettaw was represented by a lawyer.

On the eve of Suu Kyi's trial, her defense lawyer said she was innocent of the charges, which could put her into prison for up to five years.

"We call all political forces for Free Aung San Suu Kyi to mobilize all over Burma, by holding praying sessions in homes, places of worship ... and holding silent, peaceful rallies in front of Insein prison," said a statement from three activist groups. Burma is the old name for Myanmar and preferred by the military regime's opponents.

India election paves way for economic reform

MUMBAI, India (AP)—India Inc. breathed a huge sigh of relief Sunday, a day after the ruling Congress Party won one of the most definitive electoral victories in nearly two decades of fractious coalition politics.

Congress' victory—and the near-collapse of India's once-powerful communist parties—means key reforms in insurance, pension funds, banking and retail are now likely to get enacted.

But that doesn't translate into a mandate for sweeping pro-market liberalization, analysts say.

The global financial crisis has tempered India's appetite for deeper foreign investment and looser regulation. Moreover, Congress, which oversaw an unprecedented four-year boom, has cast itself as the party of "inclusive growth," a policy approach aimed at helping India's vast underclass while also pushing free-market reforms. It is unlikely to roll back costly social welfare programs that helped the party win the election—but also added to the nation's burgeoning fiscal deficit.

With the Congress-led coalition capturing 262 seats in India's 543-seat Parliament, Congress officials were in talks Sunday to finalize their political alliance—seeking the 10 additional spots needed to nudge them over the halfway mark in Parliament.

The party's strong showing put to rest pre-election fears of an unwieldy coalition.

Nandan Nilekani, co-chairman of Infosys, one of India's largest information technology companies, called the result "very positive for India's economic policy and reform."

Pakistani Taliban vow to fight until 'last breath'

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The Pakistani Taliban have vowed to resist until the "last breath" as security forces entered two militant-held towns and fought on the outskirts of a third in what could turn into bloody urban battles near the Afghan border.

As Pakistani political leaders gathered Monday to discuss the military operation in the Swat Valley and surrounding areas, the prime minister insisted the country's nuclear arsenal was safe, comments that follow reports it is expanding its nuclear stockpile.

Washington has pressed Islamabad to crack down on al-Qaida and Taliban strongholds along the Afghan frontier, saying the militants threaten not only U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan but also Pakistan's existence.

A top official said Sunday that the military offensive had killed more than 1,000 suspected militants and would proceed until the last insurgent is "flushed out." Taliban spokesman Muslim Khan said later in the day that the militants were defiant.

"We will fight until the last breath for the enforcement of Islamic law," Khan told The Associated Press in a brief phone call from an undisclosed location.

World

Netanyahu, Obama to confront policy differences

WASHINGTON (AP)—The leaders of the United States and Israel sit down Monday to discuss an array of Mideast issues on which they disagree: peacemaking with the Palestinians and U.S. efforts to promote dialogue with the once-shunned Iran and Syria.

Before his Feb. 10 election, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu derided the latest round of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which stalled late last year, as a waste of time. But senior White House officials said Saturday that President Barack Obama's meeting with Netanyahu is part of his commitment to pursue a comprehensive peace that includes a two-state solution.

While not opposing the Obama administration's efforts to promote dialogue with Iran and Syria, Israeli officials dismiss Tehran's claims that its nuclear program is peaceful and fear the U.S. outreach could lead to greater tolerance for Iran's nuclear ambitions. Finally, the Israelis are worried by the recent diplomatic shuttles to Syria for fear they reward Damascus even as it maintains close ties to Tehran and harbors Iranian proxies that have warred with Israel, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Gaza's Hamas.

Netanyahu has tried to persuade the Americans that Iran, with its nuclear ambitions, arsenal of ballistic missiles and militant proxies, must be reined in before peacemaking with the Palestinians can progress.

"Both countries' goal of blocking Iran from achieving (nuclear) capability definitely will be at the heart of the talks, and I imagine there will be a detailed discussion of the most effective means to achieve this aim," Israel's national security adviser, Uzi Arad, said.

Netanyahu confidant Zalman Shoval, a former ambassador to the U.S., recently said the Israeli leader would ask the U.S. to give Iran a deadline of "a very few months" to comply with international demands to halt its enrichment of uranium—a process that can be used to build nuclear bombs.

"If by then we have not reached an agreement with you, all other options are still on the table," Shoval added in a clear allusion to a military strike.

Obama said he understood Israel's concerns over Tehran, according to a Newsweek magazine interview published Saturday.

"I understand very clearly that Israel considers Iran an existential threat and given some of the statements that have been made by President Ahmadinejad, you can understand why," he said. "I don't think it's my place to determine for the Israelis what their security needs are."

AP

In this photo released by the Israeli Government Press Office, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and his wife Sara wave as they board a plane at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv early Sunday, May 17, 2009, on their way for the first visit to Washington since Netanyahu became Israeli Prime Minister.

Israel urges Syria to join direct peace talks

SOUTHERN SHUNEH, Jordan (AP)—Israel's president urged Syria Sunday to open direct peace talks, saying any gesture by the Damascus government would help clear the air between the two arch enemies.

President Shimon Peres, a Nobel Peace Prize winner whose office is largely ceremonial, also told reporters in Jordan that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would abide by a past Israeli government's commitment to a U.S.-backed Mideast peace plan calling for a two-state solution to the conflict with Palestinians.

Peres said some had suggested Syrian President Bashar Assad and Netanyahu meet and start talking directly.

"The Syrians should be ready to talk. If President Assad wants peace, why is he shy?" he said after participating in an international economic meeting sponsored by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum. "We suggested many times direct talks," Peres added. "He thinks direct talks are a prize to Israel. It's not a prize. It's normal."

Israel and Syria conducted indirect peace negotiations through Turkish mediators last year. But Syria suspended them over Israel's Gaza war in December and January. Peres said the Syrians have been trying to get the United States involved as an intermediary in the indirect talks but he did not believe the contact through Turkey had resumed.

"Right now, I don't think there's anything happening," he said, pointing to Israel's preoccupation with elections that brought right-wing Likud leader Netanyahu to office in March.

Syria is demanding that Israel agree to return the entire Golan Heights, territory captured in the 1967 Mideast war, in any peace deal. Assad said last week he did not think the new hardline Israeli government was a good partner for the peace talks.

EU commissioner wins Lithuania vote

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP)—The European Union's budget chief will become Lithuania's first woman president following a landslide victory in a vote overshadowed by the Baltic country's ailing economy, preliminary results showed Monday.

With all ballots counted, Dalia Grybauskaite amassed 69 percent of the vote, the election commission announced. The commission said turnout was nearly 52 percent, high enough to avoid a runoff. The results were expected to be confirmed later Monday.

Lithuania—along with neighbors Estonia and Latvia—ranks among Europe's most depressed economies. EU statistics this week showed the economy plummeted nearly 10 percent in the first quarter of 2009 compared with the previous three months. Unemployment in March was 15.5 percent, a dramatic jump from 4.3 percent a year earlier.

By choosing Grybauskaite, a former finance minister, voters were hoping that she would use her financial expertise for a speedy recovery from the deepening recession.

"I am ready to carry this burden of responsibility, and I am sure that the people of Lithuania will never regret the decision to vote for me," Grybauskaite told a group of cheering supporters at a party in downtown Vilnius.

"I am ready to face those challenges and help our country out of this difficult situation."

Residents: Islamic insurgents seize Somalia town

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Islamic insurgents captured a key southern town on Sunday, witnesses said, but the country's fragile government claimed the defection of a key militia leader as a major victory.

The government has been struggling against a major push in the last week by insurgents, apparently aimed at taking over what little of the Somali capital that the government still controls.

The government denied militants had captured the agricultural crossroads town of Jowhar on Sunday, but residents reported a street battle that ended with government allies fleeing to the town's outskirts. The fighters who reportedly fled also are Islamists—reflecting the efforts by Somalia's U.N.-backed government to win over defectors in the chaotic country.

The latest Islamic leader reported to switch sides in Mogadishu, Sheik Yusuf Indahaadde, promised his men would now take up arms for the government, a key ally said.

Pro-government militias control much of central Somalia, but the government itself directly controls only a few blocks of Mogadishu, the capital, and a border town.

Al-Shabab, an Islamic insurgent group that U.S. State Department considers a terrorist organization, with links to al-Qaida, controls much of southern Somalia.

Jowhar, 55 miles (90 kilometers) from Mogadishu, is a key travel route from southern to central Somalia, and its takeover by al-Shabab would be a significant victory.

On Sunday, Jowhar resident Hamdi Da'ud said he saw the bodies of three pro-government militiamen on the city's streets after the insurgents fought a 20-minute battle with pro-government forces. Both sides fired machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades at each other.

"Hundreds of additional fighters poured into the town moments after the pro-government Islamists fled to the outskirts of Jowhar," resident Isse Abdulle told The Associated Press by phone.

WORLD BRIEFS

Kuwaiti women win first parliamentary seats

KUWAIT CITY (AP)—Kuwaitis elected female parliament members for the first time and rejected a number of Islamic fundamentalist candidates in a weekend vote that many hoped would bring stability to the country's rocky political scene. Women gained the right to vote and run for office in 2005 but failed in two previous elections to win seats in the 50-member parliament. Four women were elected in Saturday's vote, according to official results read out by judges on state-owned TV on Sunday. Kuwait has led the region in giving its people democratic rights. It has an elected parliament that wields considerable power, but the Cabinet is still chosen and led by a ruling family that holds ultimate power.

Lawmakers call for British speaker's resignation

LONDON (AP)—In a sharp break with tradition, the leader of a British political party on Sunday urged the speaker of the House of Commons to resign due to his handling of the expenses scandal that has rocked Britain. Citing a lack of leadership, Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg said speaker Michael Martin should step down from the powerful post. The Sunday Times said Martin would face a no-confidence vote in the Commons this week. "He has proved himself over some time now to be a dogged defender of the way things are, of the status quo. And what we need very urgently is someone ... who will lead a wholesale radical process of reform," Clegg told the BBC.

Thousands protest to demand Guatemalan leader quit

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Thousands of Guatemalans protested Sunday to demand the president resign over accusations that he ordered a lawyer killed, a scandal threatening the rule of the country's first leftist leader more than 50 years. Supporters of President Alvaro Colom staged a counter-demonstration. Many were farmers and workers who have benefited from his social programs. Colom denies Rodrigo Rosenberg's allegations, which were broadcast posthumously after the attorney was shot to death a week ago. He has dismissed calls for his resignation and asked the FBI and a U.N. panel to investigate the killing.

Overdrive

2010 Camaro 2LT: GM's joy mobile

By WARREN BROWN
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I missed the entrance to the Ohio Turnpike and stayed on Interstate 75 South for too long a stretch—a 200-mile error realized only when I entered Kentucky.

But instead of getting angry, I laughed and did what should have been done in the first place: I pressed the OnStar communications button and asked for the proper route to my home in Virginia. The information, with turn-by-turn accuracy, was downloaded to my car's communications system within a minute.

I should've done that before setting out from the Detroit metropolitan area. But I was too giddy to embrace common sense.

I had flown to Detroit a day earlier, ostensibly to get an update on the Chevrolet Volt plug-in electric car at the General Motors Technical Center in nearby Warren, Mich.

But the real reason for my trip was parked in one of the Tech Center's side lots—low-slung, sexy, bright chrome yellow. It was a 2010 Chevrolet Camaro coupe, the 2LT version equipped with GM's 304-horsepower V-6 engine.

I could've chosen the 426-horsepower V-8 Camaro SS. But that would have been asking for a speeding ticket on top of a higher cost for gas.

Besides, the hype was that GM, in resurrecting the rear-wheel-drive Camaro, had given it a V-6 engine that beats all others in power and fuel efficiency. I'm a sucker for that kind of boast. I figured I'd give it a try.

The hype was right. The car had me from the moment I keyed the ignition.

I've been doing this long enough—driving as many as 35,000 miles annually since 1982—to know when a car feels right. The Camaro 2LT coupe, with an interior done in perfectly stitched black leather and outfitted with all of the extra engine- and performance-monitoring gauges that would make any driving enthusiast happy, felt right from the beginning.

I followed several construction detours out of Detroit, paying more attention to the Camaro's build quality and performance than to the direction in which I was driving.

I remember feeling a bit of regret. Had GM built this kind of Camaro all along, an affordable car with knockout looks and first-class road manners, it wouldn't be in the trouble it's in today. Earlier generation Camaros and their Pontiac Firebird siblings were fast. But they were also heavy, clumsy body-on-frame things that experienced some difficulty taking tight corners.

This Camaro, by comparison, was something else altogether. It was tight, relatively light and gifted with the ability to make a tight U-turn on a narrow street without touching a curb left or right.

Long trips in earlier Camaros left me worn out. But after driving several hours in the wrong direction in this one, I wanted to drive some more.

Several of my peers in automotive journalism have extolled the new Camaro as the best muscle car available—better than the Ford Mustang and Dodge Challenger, considerably more fun to drive than the estimable Hyundai Genesis coupe. I join them in that assessment ... and leave you with this thought:

The federal government, to which GM is beholden for billions of dollars in emergency loans, seems determined to take a strong hand in running the company, going so far as to tell it what kinds of cars to make.

2010 Camaro 2LT: Had GM built this kind of Camaro all along, an affordable car with knockout looks and first-class road manners, it wouldn't be in the trouble it's in today.
THE WASHINGTON POST

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Complaints
Sexy, low-slung styling excites the emotions. But it also diminishes visibility, as it does looking through the slit-like rear window of the new Camaro. Also, rear seating is tight and not recommended for hauling people on long drives.

Ride, acceleration and handling
Ride is excellent from the driver's perspective. From any perspective, acceleration and handling are superior.

Head-turning quotient
It attracts all kinds of attention, especially the uniformed kind. I got a ticket anyway, just driving—I thought gently—in my neighborhood. Geez!

Body style/layout
The 2010 Camaro is a retro-style muscle car done right, a sports coupe with front-mounted engine and rear wheel drive.

Engines/transmissions
There are two engines, a 3.6-liter V-6 and a 6.2-liter V-8. The direct-injection, 24-valve V-6, driven for this column, delivers 304 horsepower at 6,400 revolutions per minute and 273 foot-pounds of torque at 5,200 revolutions per minute. In the test car, it was mated to a six-speed automatic transmission. A six-speed manual is available, as it is for the optional V-8 engine, which delivers a maximum 426 horsepower and 420 foot-pounds of torque.

Capacities
There are seats for four people. Maximum luggage capacity is 11.3 cubic feet. Fuel capacity is 19 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline. I experimented with different grades. The Camaro drinks regular but seems to run better on premium.

Mileage
The six-cylinder Camaro with six-speed automatic gets 29 miles per gallon on the highway. City mileage is 18 miles per gallon.

Safety
Front and rear ventilated disc brakes with antilock protection, electronic stability and traction control, and side and head air bags.

Price
The base price on the 2010 Chevrolet Camaro 2LT coupe (with standard six-speed manual) is $26,580. The dealer's invoice price on that model is $25,384. Price as tested is $28,560, including $1,185 for the six-speed automatic transmission and a $795 transportation charge. Dealer's price as tested is $27,222. Prices are sourced from Chevrolet; Edmunds.com; and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

Purse-strings note
The Chevrolet Camaro is the best muscle car on the market—power, performance, reasonable fuel efficiency and good looks.

VW Routan is lemony

By DAN NEIL
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Even by the dire standards of the current market, the new Volkswagen Routan minivan appears to be nailed to the showroom floor. A warmed-over version of the Chrysler Town & Country/Dodge Caravan, the Routan is such a shallow and insincere badge job—so screamingly a Chrysler T&C, right down to the slack, wobbly feel in the gearshift, so lacking in the wit and nuance that has made recent VWs such a kick—that it almost seems like corporate sabotage.

And here's the worst part: The one signature move for the T&C, its ace in the hole, so to speak, was the second-row Stow 'n Go seating, which allowed the mid-row seats to disappear under a flat cargo floor. Obviously as the result of some negotiated exclusivity, the Stow 'n Go feature is not available on the VW. Ditto the swiveling mid-row captain's chairs.

So, with all respect and deep affection for VW, I have to ask: Why the heck would I buy a Routan?

Yet the Routan has lessons to teach us. Consider that, in punditry about the rapidly consolidating car business, it's generally assumed that the remaining pan-national automakers—for example, a Fiat-Chrysler-Opel-Saab conglomerate—would build better cars for all, because these companies could leverage their best products and engineering in multiple global markets.

Not necessarily. Such far-flung, culture-clashed, debt-ridden mega-automakers could just as easily wind up making mediocrity the global standard—and with less competition in the market, they'd have more incentive to do so. In this respect, the Routan seems like a preview of coming attractions.

Lesson two: Back in the days when the travails of the auto business weren't front-page news, consumers were far less informed about the back-of-the-house operations of the car business, the interlocking alliances and platform sharing that, for instance, made a GM a Suzuki or Toyota or Opel, depending on the car. Today it's hard to imagine any customer walking into the VW showroom blissfully unaware that the Routan is a re-badged product of the bankrupted Chrysler. Back away slowly, slowly. ...

Lesson three: Know thy brand, again. The VW van—whether you're talking Eurovan, Microbus, Vanagon, Westphalia, Multivan, Splittie, Kombi—is an indelible part of world automotive culture. For the few thousand seven-passenger minivan sales VW hoped to conquest with the indifferent and indistinct Routan, the company has forsaken this proud and cool brand equity. A bad bargain, that.

So while the Routan is just sitting here on the showroom floor, not going anywhere, let's take a look around. The major cosmetic differences include revised headlamps and taillamps, a different front fascia and a VW corporate grille. In profile, only an expert could discern the VW from its Pentastar clone.

Inside, the differences are more pronounced though just as cosmetic. The Routan gets an upgrade in dash and door materials and the seats are more fully bolstered. The Chrysler gauges are swapped in favor of white-faced units with Teutonic lettering. The center console get a swash of Deutsch-ified switches and control fascia, but the center console is essentially the same as the Chrysler's, including the optional audio and DVD navigation system, the MyGig. The Stow 'n Go feature is standard on the third-row seats.

VW claims to have retuned the Routan's suspension to be more sporty and affirmative. Notwithstanding the pointlessness of that exercise, the Routan still feels plenty pillowy and soft. In hard cornering the body lolls like a tongue out of a sleeping drunkard's mouth.

Two engines are available: a 3.8-liter, 197-hp V6 and a 4.0-liter, 253-hp V6. Both are backed up by a six-speed automatic. As for acceleration, there is some.

The Routan will be a brief footnote in the long history of VW and perhaps an endnote in the saga of Chrysler. I expect soon enough VW will cancel its order with Windsor, give us the Microbus and all will be forgiven.

NUTS & BOLTS

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

- Base price: $29,700
- Price as tested: $33,000 (est.)
- Powertrain: 3.8-liter, overhead valve V6; six-speed automatic transmission; front-wheel drive
- Horsepower: 197 at 5,200 rpm
- Torque: 230 pound-feet at 4,000 rpm
- Curb weight: 4,507 pounds
- Wheelbase: 121.2 inches
- Overall length: 202.5 inches
- 0-60 mph: 10.2 seconds
- EPA fuel economy: 17 miles per gallon city, 25 mpg highway
- Final thoughts: Showroom planter

Source: Volkswagen

Life & Style

For Gwen Stefani, never a doubt

By RANDY LEWIS
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

ONTARIO, Calif.—Gwen Stefani may be a superstar pop singer, hit songwriter, fashion maven and role model for millions of girls and young women, but on a brutally hot afternoon recently, on a loading dock outside a largely empty sports arena here, she was just a mom, trying to keep her 3-year-old son entertained while she took on an impromptu decorating project.

"I don't have time to do this, but you know me—once I get obsessed with something," Stefani said while splattering globs of sky blue, neon orange and electric pink paint across three large squares of white fabric. She and a couple friends were creating tapestries to hang in the backstage dressing rooms during the first full-scale concert tour in seven years by No Doubt, the once-scrappy ska-rock group that emerged from Anaheim to become one of the biggest-selling pop music acts of the 1990s and early 2000s.

Nearby, Kingston James McGregor Rossdale, the first of Stefani's two kids with rock star hubby Gavin Rossdale, frolicked over a separate sheet of material reserved for him. Eager to include his 8-month-old brother, Zuma, in the fun, James (as Stefani usually calls him) plopped his hands on his young sibling's head.

Inside the new Citizens Business Bank Arena a short time later, Stefani, bassist Tony Kanal, guitarist Tom Dumont and drummer Adrian Young were showing pretty much the same childlike exuberance and energy as they bounced around the gleaming white retro-futuristic stage set they were trying out for the first time before the tour kickoff Saturday in Las Vegas.

After a group hiatus of five years during which Stefani put out two multimillion-selling solo albums, "Love. Angel.Music.Baby" and "The Sweet Escape," No Doubt is back. Judging by the early box-office response to the nearly 60 shows scheduled across North America, the quartet is poised for one of the biggest tours of 2009.

During the break, many fans wondered whether Stefani's solo career would mean the end of the road for the Orange County band that launched her, but in Stefani's mind there was always No Doubt.

"The day I got home after my tour ended last year, I wanted to do a photo shoot with the group—I thought it was an important thing to do," Stefani, 39, said during a lull in the show rehearsals. "This is what I told the guys: The plan was, I wanted to do the dance record, go on the tour, come home and get pregnant—since I'm a pro at it now, because I did it before," she said with a laugh, before elaborating on her plan. "I'll write the record while I'm pregnant, then after I have the baby, we'll go on tour and we'll have a new No Doubt record. It'll be amazing."

■■■

All but one part of that plan has worked out. Musical inspiration for Stefani, the main songwriter of such No Doubt hits as "Don't Speak," "Ex-Girlfriend," "Just a Girl" and "Underneath It All," just wasn't there after she and Rossdale became expectant parents for the second time.

"It totally didn't work," Stefani said. "I don't know how other women feel, but I lose connection with myself because my body becomes this other vessel for this other human. Even after a few months you don't have your body back; you're not yourself. I was feeling not very modern, not very creative."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Adrian Young, left, Gwen Stefani, Tony Kanal and Tom Dumont. No Doubt's tour begins Saturday in Las Vegas and is expected to be among the year's biggest.

After a few months of fruitless writing sessions, Stefani, Kanal, Dumont and Young decided the best thing they could do to get the creative juices flowing was to follow the path that had first served them so well: Go out and play.

"We're not calling it a reunion tour, because the band never broke up," manager Jim Guerinot said.

Disbanding "was never discussed," Dumont, 40, said on the first of several days of band rehearsals in Ontario. "In fact, it was specifically discussed as, 'Let's not be one of these bands that breaks up and gets back together.' We don't hate each other; it's just time for a break. Gwen had some real specific things she wanted to do with the time."

The last time No Doubt toured was in 2004, performing about a dozen shows in conjunction with a hits compilation, "The Singles: 1992-2003." It was 2002 when the group last mounted a full-scale concert tour, following the 2001 release of its last studio album, "Rock Steady."

That's when Stefani realized she had some career steps to take outside the parameters of the band she joined as a teenager, entering the group as "Just a Girl" singer before taking over the role of chief songwriter after her older brother, Eric, left the band to pursue his dream career as an animator for "The Simpsons."

Following No Doubt's 2004 tour, she intended to put out just one, as she often called it, "stupid dance record" on her own. "Love.Angel.Music.Baby" sold 4 million copies in the United States and yielded hit singles "Hollaback Girl," "What You Waiting For" and "Cool."

What she hadn't figured on was doing a follow-up, which left No Doubt in limbo a couple years longer than the musicians had anticipated. During that time, Stefani also launched her phenomenally popular L.A.M.B. fashion line.

"All I know how to do is follow my inspiration," Stefani said in a separate interview in her dressing room. "That's why I did those dance records; it's where I wanted to be. ... I really didn't plan to do the second one. I felt guilty about it, and it was a real scary conversation to say, 'Listen guys, I feel like I'm this close to another one, it's really what I want to do right now.' They were really so supportive, and thank God I did it, because that tour was so rewarding, such a great thing for me to do.

"But as soon as I finished that second record—literally it was during mastering of that record—I was like, 'I know I need to do another No Doubt record now. I'm done with this.'"

While their celebrity bandmate toured and appeared on one magazine cover and TV talk show after another, Kanal, Dumont and Young kept busy. Kanal collaborated with other songwriters. He and Dumont produced recordings for other artists. Young kept his drum chops up playing with a variety of bands on the road and in the studio.

Dumont and Young also started families, something Kanal and his girlfriend of 61/2 years hope to do as well.

"For the first time ever, we have our own buses," Kanal said. "That's purely out of necessity, because Gwen's got her nannies and the babies on her bus, and Tom has his wife and his nanny and baby, and Adrian his wife, nanny and their son. That's going to be an interesting dynamic, a little bit of a change, by default. It'll be interesting to see how all that plays out."

■■■

No Doubt is finding it illuminating to pick up where the group left off five years ago. Earlier this month the group played a couple warm-up shows, minus the full stage production to be unveiled publicly Saturday.

During the band's headlining set two weeks ago at the Bamboozle Festival in East Rutherford, N.J., Stefani asked how many in the crowd were seeing the group for the first time.

"I was just in so much shock by the amount of hands that went up," Stefani said. "I'm still sort of like: Did they understand the question? Because it was like the whole audience. ... I still don't know if maybe they heard me wrong or what, but it was kind of exciting."

Manager Guerinot says he hasn't been completely surprised by the enthusiasm he's witnessed. "They've been away for five years," he said. "Gwen had spectacular success in the interim. People remember this band as a tremendous live attraction, and I think there's an awful lot of pent-up interest in whether we'd see No Doubt again."

The group sold out four shows in Irvine and three in Los Angeles.

All four band members say that they aren't interested in milking the nostalgia circuit and that they consider this tour a steppingstone in the creative process, much like the way they operated in the beginning, before their 1995 album, "Tragic Kingdom," transformed them into one of the world's most popular acts.

"It feels so much more right than I thought it was going to feel," Stefani said. "Physically it feels right—I feel powerful again; I feel modern again. And I have my little baby, and everything feels so great in that kind of way. And on top of that, the welcome we're getting: Selling out the four Irvine shows, we're feeling bigger than we've ever been."

'Idol' Gokey describes run as 'tragedy to triumph'

AP

In this May 8, 2009 file photo, "American Idol" contestant and Milwaukee local Danny Gokey sings the national anthem before the Chicago Cubs and the Milwaukee Brewers baseball game in Milwaukee.

By CARRIE ANTLFINGER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Thousands of screaming fans, being asked to sing the national anthem at a major league baseball game and a parade: It was all too much for "American Idol" finalist Danny Gokey, who recently returned to his hometown of Milwaukee.

During the parade on May 8, the 29-year-old truck driver cried.

"It's unbelievable," Gokey told former "Idol" contestant Jamar Rogers.

The 29-year-old Gokey, who was voted off Wednesday, said he was grateful to the show and that his "life has turned around: I can't say that enough." With the vote, "Idol" now pits dark horse Kris Allen against early favorite Adam Lambert.

Gokey has come far in his transformation from an unknown widower to the third-place finisher on the popular Fox singing show.

"From tragedy to triumph," he said.

Less than a year ago, Gokey's wife, Sophia, died after surgery for a congenital heart defect. He was so shocked, he couldn't cry at her funeral.

Sophia had been an "American Idol" fan, and they had agreed he would try out. Gokey, then 28, reached the upper age limit for the audition, but a month after her death, he auditioned in Kansas City.

Gokey, a volunteer church music director who knows mostly gospel music, had to learn new songs every week. He also tailored his image, turning his collection of more than 50 pairs of funky glasses and the heart symbol he makes with his hands into his signatures.

He has said he decided long ago to put away bitter feelings and enjoy life, which recently included being tutored by actor and singer Jamie Foxx, complimented by Simon Cowell as "one of the best" and adored by Paula Abdul, who cried when he was voted off the show.

"My whole testimony is overcoming," Gokey said. "Overcoming the impossible in my life, and now I want to take that message and tell people, 'If I can do it, you can do it.'"

Gokey plans to take that message on the road this summer when he tours with the show's top 10 finalists and in charity work for Sophia's Heart Foundation, which he started after his wife died. He said he also wants to make a rhythm and blues CD, although he hasn't yet signed a record deal.

Gokey's 34-year-old brother Charles said his family was devastated by the vote, but that Gokey was now free from "Idol" contracts to do what he wants, including more foundation work.

"I'm a little sad, but at the same time it's a new beginning," said Charles Gokey. "It's a happy beginning for what he can accomplish, with all the exposure he's had."

"I was a nobody, and this show turned me into somebody and I'll always be thankful for the roots that I came out of because I do believe that still the best has yet to come for me," Danny Gokey said on a recent conference call with reporters. "This is not the end of the road."

Bird, Spielberg honored at Boston U commencement

BOSTON (AP)—Former Boston Celtics basketball star Larry Bird and film director Steven Spielberg were feted Sunday at Boston University with honorary degrees.

Bird, who played for the Celtics for 13 seasons and was enshrined in basketball's Hall of Fame, is now president of basketball operations for the Indiana Pacers.

Spielberg has made classic movies such as "Jaws" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark." He recently directed "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

U.S. Rep. Michael Capuano of Massachusetts delivered the commencement address at the school's 136th graduation and received an honorary doctor of laws degree. He challenged the graduates to help improve the world.

"You can get a job, climb the ladder of success, make money and build a very comfortable life for yourselves. But if that is all you do with your life, you will not feel fulfilled," Capuano said. "You will always know you didnt challenge your intellect to improve society. You didnt use your voice to protest injustice. You will pass through this life without leaving much of wake behind you."

The university also is honoring Zhang Yimou, the Chinese filmmaker who produced the opening and closing ceremonies at the Beijing Olympics, with an honorary degree. He didn't attend the commencement ceremonies and will receive his degree at another time, the university said.

University President Robert Brown said last week that Zhang's films "have offered

Bird

worldwide audiences both a perspective on the people and culture of China ... and a window into universal aspects of human nature and yearning."

Zhang will start shooting a new movie in late May or June, his assistant told The Associated Press last month, marking the director's first project since designing the Beijing Olympics ceremonies.

The opening ceremony won a Peabody Award for excellence in electronic media.

Iowa town seeks status as video gamers' mecca

OTTUMWA, Iowa (AP)—For a brief shining moment in the 1980s, Ottumwa was the unlikely hot spot of the fledgling video game industry as gamers around the globe flocked to this sleepy Iowa city and its video game arcade for a series of landmark tournaments.

Gamers set world records, the TV show "That's Incredible" broadcast a tournament to a national audience, and then-mayor Jerry Parker dubbed Ottumwa "The Video Game Capital of the World."

The glory days didn't last long. The Twin Galaxies arcade closed within a couple years, and memories of Pac-Man and Donkey Kong dimmed for everyone - except arcade owner Walter Day, who dreamed of making Ottumwa into a permanent game destination.

"You know how your average person fantasizes, when they daydream about having a new car or having a beautiful wife or inheriting from their uncle $2 million or something like that? I'm a little bit different," he said. "I fantasize about owning downtown Ottumwa and turning it into the first video game-themed amusement attraction."

It's a calling that's been heard by town officials. In April, they announced plans for an International Video Game Hall of Fame.

"Every town needs a place to be recognized for," said Terry McNitt, head of Ottumwa's Chamber of Commerce.

Day said he envisioned making Ottumwa a "cultural home base" for the lucrative worldwide gaming industry. The Entertainment Software Association, a game publishers trade group, said computer and video game industry sales climbed to $22 billion in 2008.

Ottumwa's bid to reclaim its past also was inspired by a pair of 2007 video-game documentaries, "King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters" and "Chasing Ghosts," both of which featured the Twin Galaxies' heyday when Day was known as the king of video game stats.

Although his arcade closed, Day's scorekeeper status remains. Twin Galaxies Inc., his Fairfield-based company, tracks rankings, high scores and championship tournaments for video games around the world.

City officials are passionate about Day's plans, but the idea is mostly a vision backed by a Facebook group with about 800 members. Officials said they hoped to buy a building near the original Twin Galaxies site and want to secure naming rights and a designation as a nonprofit and build up a Web site.

Day said he's also reached out to his contacts in the gaming industry for donations. The hall of fame would likely include donated classic games, exhibits about the industry and an area with modern games for visitors to play.

Dale Uehling, the city's mayor, noted there was "a lot of interest, a lot of enthusiasm" for the project.

"The thing is, it's real and it has potential, and I think that's what excites everybody," McNitt said. "Why Ottumwa, Iowa? We're a population of 26,000. Well, we're a great little town."

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Antonia Atalig Diaz

of Tinian

Born to Life on October 31, 1936
was called to Eternal Rest on May 14, 2009 at the age of 72.

In her new life, she now joins her:
Parents: †Jose Camacho Atalig, †Maria Blanco Barcinas Atalig
Sisters: †Maria Barcinas Atalig, †Lydia Taisacan, †Juanita Barcinas Atalig
Sister In Law: †Ana C. Atalig, †Conchita Diaz Cruz, †Faustina Taitano Diaz
Brothers: †Augusto Barcinas Atalig, †Manuel Barcinas Atalig
Brothers In Law: †Juan C. Cruz, †Theodocio C. Cruz, †Charlie Taniguchi, †Hilario F. Diaz

Her memories will live in the hearts of her:
Husband: Leonardo Flores Diaz
Children:
Marian Pacita Diaz Iriarte and Joaquin Leon Guerrero Iriarte Jr.
Abraham Lenny Atalig Diaz and Elizabeth Santos
John David Atalig Diaz and Dolores Manglona Diaz
Eleanor Dorothy Diaz Dela Cruz and Vicente Palacios Dela Cruz
Romeo Fabian Atalig Diaz and Maria Babauta Diaz
Benedict Atalig Diaz and Connie Lynn Diaz
Claudine Diaz Nangauta and Teddy Leon Guerrero Nangauta
Magdalena Marie Diaz Sarmiento and Dawn Tani Sarmiento

Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren
Kevin James Iriarte
Adrienne Babauta and Gene Palacios (Kiani)
Christine Diaz Quichocho and Peter Quichocho (Darrell)
Abraham Leonardo Babauta Diaz
Nathan Daniel Babauta Diaz
Marja Lynn Babauta Diaz
Patrick Joseph Babauta Diaz
Ryan Manglona Diaz and Tessa Lynn Diaz (Nicole, Ryana, Stephanie)
Jonathan Manglona Diaz and Gina Diaz (Ahani)
Natasha Diaz Pascua and Leonardo Pascua (Tara, TJ, Leona)
BJ Peter Diaz Dela Cruz
Dane Andrew Diaz Dela Cruz
Errienne Artita Diaz
Evin Artita Diaz
Taylor Santos
Dominic Santos Diaz
Kamalynn Marie Santos Diaz
AJ Santos Diaz
Cassandra White
Antonia Yvette Diaz
Tevin Christopher Diaz Nangauta
Tyra Antonette Diaz Nangauta
Tianna Kaye Diaz Nangauta
Tasia Marie Diaz Nangauta
Thalia Claudine Diaz Nangauta
Tristan John Diaz Nangauta
Matthew Kristoffer Diaz Sarmiento

Brothers, Sisters & In Law:
Jose & Maria Atalig & Children
Leon Taisacan & Children
Fidel & Rufina Atalig & Children
Justina Cruz & Children
Josephina Taniguchi & Children

Care takers:
Flora Lynn Bicas
Bebiana Piopongco

She is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nephews, nieces and godchildren.

Daily Mass of Intention is offered at 6:00 p.m.

Nightly rosary is being prayed at Tinian San Jose Parish Church at 8:00 p.m.

On Saturday, May 23, 2009, her remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Center to San Jose Church at 7:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m. Interment service will follow immediately at the San Jose Public Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

The Family

Angels & Demons wins box office from *Star Trek*

NEW YORK (AP)—"Angels & Demons" took the box office from "Star Trek" by earning $48 million in its first weekend of release.

The haul was far less than the earlier Dan Brown adaptation "The Da Vinci Code"—which earned $77.1 million when in opened in 2006—but still enough to topple the popular "Star Trek," according to studio estimates Sunday.

In its second weekend, Paramount Pictures' "Star Trek" took in $43 million, a strong number after its $75.2 million opening last weekend, excluding its Thursday midnight screenings. The cumulative total for J.J. Abram's reboot of the sci-fi franchise is $147.6 million.

Sony's "Angels & Demons" reunites Tom Hanks and director Ron Howard for the sequel to "The Da Vinci Code." It opened altogether in theatrical release.

AP

In this film publicity image released by Columbia Pictures/Sony Entertainment, Tom Hanks and Ayelet Zurer, right, are shown in a scene from, "Angels & Demons."

"That chemistry (of Hanks and Howard) worked incredibly well with 'Da Vinci' and it looks like it's absolutely headed in that same vein, certainly on a lesser scale," said Bruer. "We never expected anything to the phenomenon of `Da Vinci.'"

Like "The Da Vinci Code," reviews were not illustrious for "Angels & Demons," but they were mostly better. Bruer called Brown's action-packed best-seller "a far more cinematic story" than "Da Vinci." In it, Hanks again plays Harvard symbolist Robert Langdon who's trying to prevent a series of murders at the Vatican.

"Sony positioned it well," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "They didn't try to say, `This is going to be "The Da Vinci Code."' It was actually quite the contrary. They tried to say this was not `Da Vinci Code,' that it was a different kind of movie."

"Angels & Demons" was the only new wide-release film of the weekend. Coming in third was "X-Men Originals: Wolverine," which earned $14.8 million in its third week, bringing its total to $151.1 million. The prequel to the "X-Men" franchise, starring Hugh Jackman as the mutant with metal claws, had a step drop-off in its second week.

On the whole, it was another robust weekend of business at movie theaters, which have been drawing large crowds throughout the recession. Dergarabedian pegs the year-to-date box office at a 16 percent increase over last year.

"We're headed toward a record breaking summer," said Dergarabedian. "If you've got a blockbuster in the pipeline, you're very happy about all the strength of the box office right now. Momentum is key in this business."

That's good news for the two blockbusters opening next weekend: "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian" and "Terminator Salvation."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. **"Angels & Demons,"** $48 million.
2. **"Star Trek,"** $43 million.
3. **"X-Men Origins: Wolverine,"** $14.8 million.
4. **"Ghosts of Girlfriends Past,"** $6.9 million.
5. **"Obsessed,"** $4.6 million.
6. **"17 Again,"** $3.4 million.
7. **"Monsters vs. Aliens,"** $3 million.
8. **"The Soloist,"** $2.4 million.
9. **"Next Day Air,"** $2.2 million.
10. "Earth," $1.7 million.

without the benefit of the buzz and controversy that propelled "The Da Vinci Code" to a $753 million worldwide total.

Overseas business was again strong for "Angels & Demons," which earned $104.3 million internationally. Rory Bruer, president of worldwide distribution for Sony, said the studio expects the film will eventually take in half a billion

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Angels and Demons

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:05	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor
Thriller, Religion • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
When Robert Langdon discovers evidence of the resurgence of an ancient secret brotherhood known as the Illuminati—the most powerful underground organization in history—he also faces a deadly threat to the existence of the secret organization's most despised enemy: the Catholic Church. When Langdon learns that the clock is ticking on an unstoppable Illuminati time bomb, he jets to Rome, where he joins forces with Vittoria Vetra, a beautiful and enigmatic Italian scientist.

★ ★ ★

Star Trek

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Chris Pine, Winona Ryder
Sci-Fi, Adaptation • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The story of a young crew's maiden voyage onboard the most advanced starship ever created: the U.S.S. Enterprise. On a journey filled with cosmic peril, the new recruits must find a way to stop an evil being whose mission of vengeance threatens all of mankind. The fate of the galaxy rests in the hands of bitter rivals. One, James T. Kirk, is a delinquent, thrill-seeking Iowa farm boy.

X-Men Origins:Wolverine

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
X-Men Origins: Wolverine, the first chapter in the X-Men saga, unites Wolverine with several other legends of the X-Men Universe, in an epic revolution that pits the mutants against powerful forces determined to eliminate them.

X-Men Origins:Wolverine

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

T-2 (Tenement 2)

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Maricel Soriano, Mika Dela Cruz
Action, Adventure • Rated NR

Fighting

Friday		4:15	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Channing Tatum, Terrence Howard
Urban, Crime • Rated PG 13

Ghost of Girlfriends Past

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:15	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Matthew McConaughhey, Jennifer Garner
Romantic, Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Lambert had a 'Wicked,' pre-'Idol' stage life

NEW YORK (AP)—Before "American Idol" took over Adam Lambert's life, there was "Wicked," not to mention "The Ten Commandments"—yes, a musical version of the sand-and-sandals biblical epic.

The 27-year-old favorite to take the "Idol" crown next Wednesday had a professional musical-theater background before he ever sang for Simon, Paula and the rest of the show's judges.

Lambert did two stints in "Wicked," the mammoth musical prequel to "The Wizard of Oz"—joining the touring company in March 2005 and staying for six months, then opening in the extended Los Angeles production in February 2007 and remaining with the show until October 2008. For both engagements, he was a member of the ensemble and understudied the role of Fieryo, the show's love interest.

Says casting guru, Bernard Telsey, who auditioned Lambert for "Wicked": "Adam was a theater guy. He came in and had that amazing voice or as I like to say 'instrument' because he has this incredible range.

"I literally remember saying, 'Oh my God, this guy has the highest range,'" said Telsey, who has cast such hit Broadway musicals as "Rent," "Hairspray" and the current revival of "South Pacific."

"And you are always looking for ensemble people who have a huge vocal range and vocal power," he said. "In an ensemble of only a handful of voices, you want that kind of a sound. It makes a show feel like there are 20 people in the ensemble as opposed to 10."

At the time, Lambert didn't look David Bowie-esque, Telsey said.

"He didn't look like a rock star. He looked like a normal kid with long hair, wearing jeans and a T-shirt and who had a big rock voice."

What Lisa Leguillou remembers best about Lambert was his fearlessness.

As the associate director of "Wicked"—in charge of keeping the show true to director Joe Mantello's original vision—she said, "I always got a sense that Adam was clear about what he wanted to do.

"He talked about his music a lot with me and what he wanted to do with it in the future. He was clear about that—doing his own stuff, which was rock. And now he's doing it."

And Lambert's singing is effortless, according to Leguillou. "That's what is so shocking. He just opens up his mouth. You never have to worry about him when he is on stage."

In 2004, Lambert made a splash—or at least emerged unscathed—from "The Ten Commandments," a pop-rock opera (starring Val Kilmer as Moses) that had a brief run at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.

Reviews for the show were not kind. The New York Times called it "bland, static, overproduced and underdirected." The Los Angeles Times sniffed, "'The Ten Commandments' has the power to leave an epiphany-seeking theatergoer speechless."

Poehler returns to 'Weekend Update' for SNL finale

NEW YORK (AP) -- Amy Poehler returned to "Weekend Update" for the star-studded season finale of "Saturday Night Live."

After a season infused by politics and Tina Fey's Sarah Palin impression, "SNL" wrapped up its 34th season - one of its best-rated ever - with cameos galore.

Along with host Will Ferrell, making appearances were Tom Hanks, Anne Hathaway and Paul Rudd. Former castmembers Maya Rudolph and Norm MacDonald also stopped by.

Former "SNL" star Poehler left the show earlier in the season to launch her NBC sitcom "Parks and Recreation." For one more time, she rejoined her "Weekend Update" co-host, Seth Meyers.

All took part in the last sketch, a deadpan sing-along of Billy Joel's "Goodnight Saigon" led by Ferrell and accompanied by the musical guest, Green Day.

The tribe speaks, new 'Survivor' wins big money

NEW YORK (AP)—The tribe has spoken, naming cattle rancher James "J.T." Thomas Jr. the sole "Survivor."

The 24-year-old country boy prevailed over New Yorker Stephen Fishbach on Sunday's season finale, claiming the $1 million check and bragging rights.

Thomas, who operates a cattle-ranching business in Samson, Ala., wept tears of joy after hearing the result.

"I can't help it," he said at the post-game special, aired live from New York. "I'm happy - it's probably the happiest I've ever been in my life, obviously."

The winner was chosen by a seven-member jury of "Survivor" peers.

Thomas called Fishbach, a corporate consultant and Yale graduate, one of the best friends he'll "probably ever have" in life. The two formed a strategic - and unlikely - alliance early on in the show, making promises to take each other to the final tribal council.

Once there, however, their bond was tested as they presented their cases to the jury. Thomas, who picked Fishbach over chatty hairstylist Erinn Lobdell after winning immunity, was surprised when Fishbach revealed to the jury that - had he been in his ally's place - he'd have chosen the weaker Lobdell as a power play to win the show.

That betrayal of trust? Water under the bridge.

"It was something I wrestled with a lot ... It felt horrible to come clean with that," Fishbach recalled.

Laughing, Thomas said he pretended to be hurt so he could "pull some votes" in his favor.

The 18th edition of the CBS castaway competition was set in the rugged interior of Brazil, where 16 players congregated when the season began.

Hef's ex Madison to dance in Vegas burlesque show

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Reality star Holly Madison is done dancing with the stars, but she's keeping her shoes fresh for a burlesque show on the Las Vegas Strip.

Hugh Hefner's ex-girlfriend has signed a contract to replace actress Kelly Monaco in "Peepshow," a topless revue at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino.

Officials say Madison will replace the "General Hospital" actress and former "Dancing With the Stars" champ starting June 22.

Monaco's run in the show was set for three months, with producers planning to continuously rotate the headline star.

The show also stars former Spice Girl Mel B.

AP

This Thursday, May 14, 2009 photo provided by the Las Vegas News Bureau shows Holly Madison in Las Vegas.

Brian Williams and Deer Tick? No, not the arachnid

NEW YORK (AP)—Starched shirts by day, tattered flannel at night? Network television anchors Brian Williams and Dan Harris have unusual new side gigs as music bloggers.

Williams' "BriTunes" - a name he quickly found was already in use by a 27-year-old blogger - launched last week with the NBC News chief anchor's talk with Deer Tick. That's the indie rock buzz band from Providence, R.I., not the arachnid whose bite can carry Lyme Disease.

ABC News' Harris has for the past few months operated "Amplified," a Web site that features his interviews with such artists as Superdrag, Neko Case, Amadou and Mariam, the Virgins and Bon Iver.

They appear to be passion plays, rather than calculated attempts at reaching younger audiences.

For anyone whose vision of a network anchor runs to Tom Brokaw or Walter Cronkite statelessness, the sight of Williams on camera comparing the styles of White Lies and Interpol is jarring. His current playlist includes Great Lakes Swimmers, Dead Weather, the Knux and Jason Isbell.

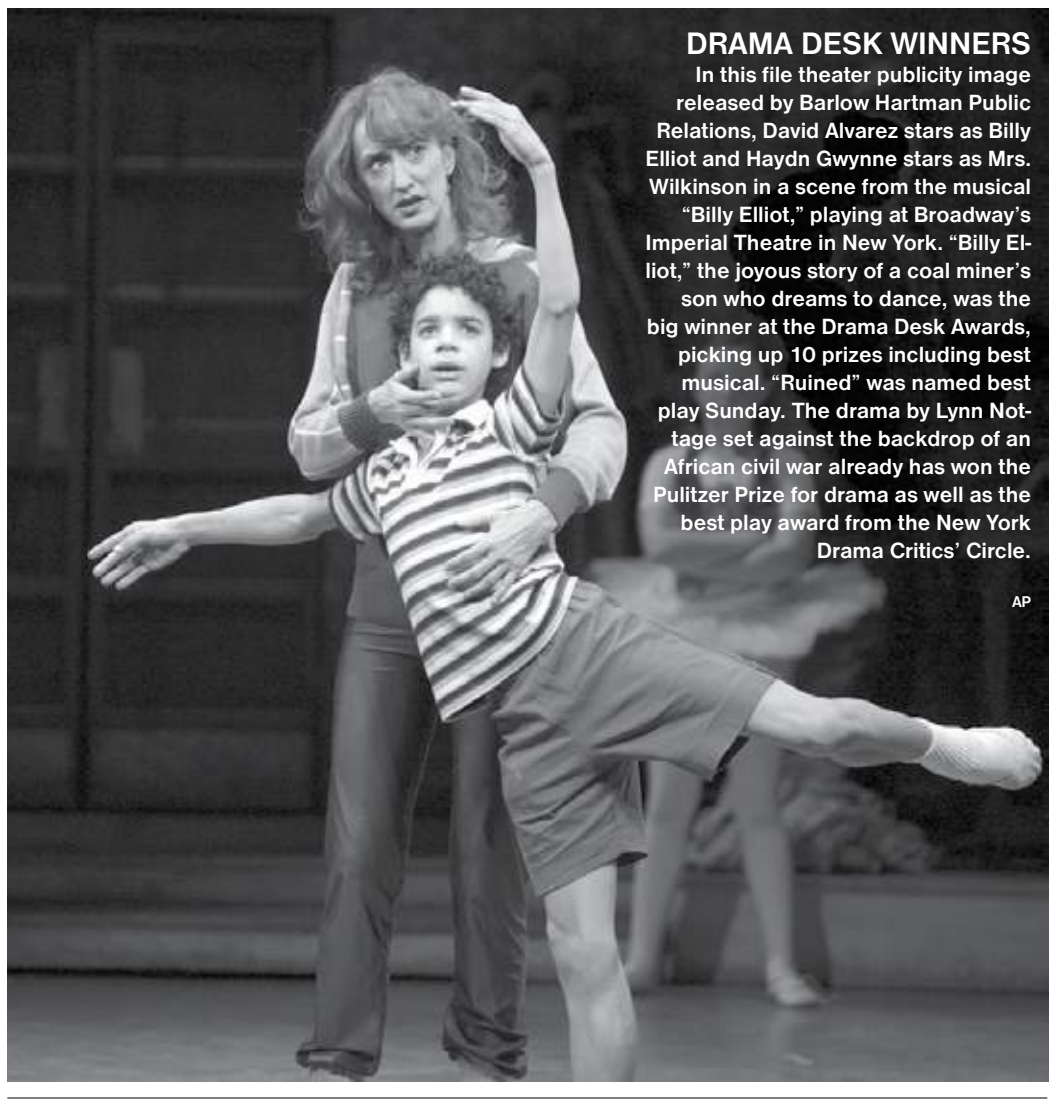
"Since my earliest memory, I've never been able to drive without music, write without music or be alone for too long without a song playing. This, I guess, is an extension of that," said Williams, whose plans this past weekend included taking in Green Day and Leonard Cohen concerts.

Harris was hooked when the goth kid in his high school class handed him a tape of the Minutemen and Sonic Youth.

Harris, 37, anchors ABC's "World News" on Sundays and is a general assignment reporter who spent six months in Iraq. He has a "Nightline" piece coming this week on children in the Congo being accused of witchcraft and subjected to abusive exorcisms. Williams, who turned 50 last month, is a news traditionalist with such a formal manner on "Nightly News" that his bosses once worried that viewers would have a hard time relating to him.

Their musical credentials were met with some suspicion in the rock world. "There is sort of a feeling of `What are these interlopers doing in our special little space?'" Harris said.

Harris makes clear to the bands he interviews that he's a fan. He interviews like he's one part journalist and one part guy who won a radio contest to hang out backstage.



DRAMA DESK WINNERS

In this file theater publicity image released by Barlow Hartman Public Relations, David Alvarez stars as Billy Elliot and Haydn Gwynne stars as Mrs. Wilkinson in a scene from the musical "Billy Elliot," playing at Broadway's Imperial Theatre in New York. "Billy Elliot," the joyous story of a coal miner's son who dreams to dance, was the big winner at the Drama Desk Awards, picking up 10 prizes including best musical. "Ruined" was named best play Sunday. The drama by Lynn Nottage set against the backdrop of an African civil war already has won the Pulitzer Prize for drama as well as the best play award from the New York Drama Critics' Circle.

AP

Son struggles to accept dad's preference for men

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My father is 83. My mother has been dead for more than 30 years. Since then, Dad has been involved with many women. But since he turned 70, he has become involved with men, which he says he finds very rewarding and much less complicated.

Dad and I always had an open and honest relationship. We have a lot of homosexual family members and friends. At the same time, I'm shocked that the fact he is gay has been so difficult for me to accept. Have you any suggestions on how I might better deal with this?

CARING SON IN MIAMI

DEAR CARING SON: Your father appears to be bisexual, which means he is attracted to both men and women. Whereas he may not have wanted to admit to himself or to you years ago that he had feelings for people of the same sex, it is no longer shocking to be open about it. Times have changed. Today a person's sexual orientation is no longer considered something to be kept hidden.

One constructive way to "deal with it" would be to realize how fortunate you are to have the kind of relationship you have always had with your dad. Be supportive, don't judge and love him for the parent he has always been.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm an office manager, bookkeeper and the receptionist. What I am NOT is a maid. I have lost count of the number of times I have walked into the break room to have my lunch or get a quick cup of tea and found spilled coffee/sugar/creamer all over the counter. I clean it up when I find it because I don't like using a dirty counter, but I don't feel I should have to because I didn't make the mess.

I have considered sending out an e-mail to the office staff about cleaning up after themselves, but the issue turns my crank enough that I'm having trouble being polite about it. Every e-mail I draft makes me sound like a nagging mother, and I know when my mom nagged me it certainly never worked -- it just annoyed me.

Have you any suggestions about what I can say that will get results without offending?

LAURA IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR LAURA: Forgo the e-mail. Post a sign in the break room, and here's what it should say: "The maid has retired. You're on your own. If you spill something, please make sure this counter is wiped clean or I will strike you dead with a bolt of lightning," and sign it, "God."

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When my husband and I are eating out, before we leave I will take home a small creamer packet for my afternoon tea. My husband says this amounts to stealing, and he finds it embarrassing. I feel that because he doesn't use cream in his coffee, I am only taking "his" cream home for my use.

I know this may seem trivial, but what say you?

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., READER

DEAR SPRINGFIELD: The sweetener, creamer and condiments on a restaurant table are supposed to be used while in the restaurant. However, you can settle this disagreement by simply asking your server before you leave if there would be any objection to your taking a packet of creamer with you to use later. I'm positive the answer will be no—as long as you're not taking the entire supply.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

OK, THE FIRST THING WE NEED IS A NAME FOR OUR SECRET CLUB.
LET'S CALL IT "THE HOBBES FAN CLUB"!
THE HOBBES FAN CLUB?! GIVE ME A BREAK! I'M SURE!
THIS IS A TOP-SECRET SOCIETY! THE NAME SHOULD BE SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS! SOMETHING VAGUELY OMINOUS AND CHILLING!
SOMETHING LIKE, "THE SINISTER ICY BLACK HAND OF DEATH CLUB"!
I STILL LIKE MY IDEA BETTER.
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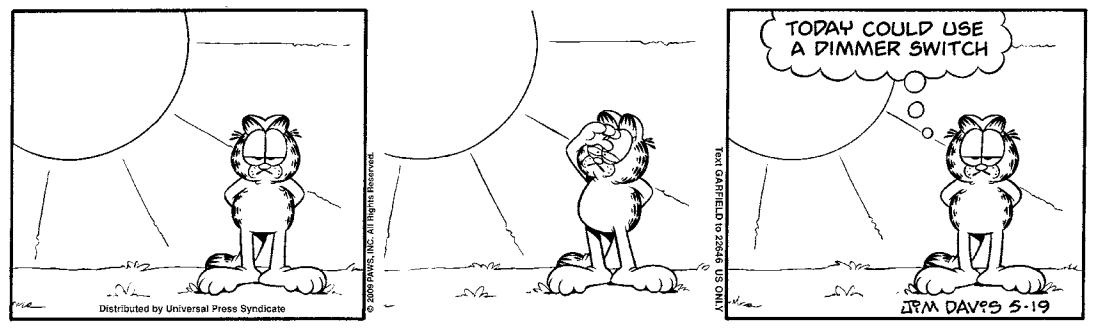
5/19

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


TODAY COULD USE A DIMMER SWITCH
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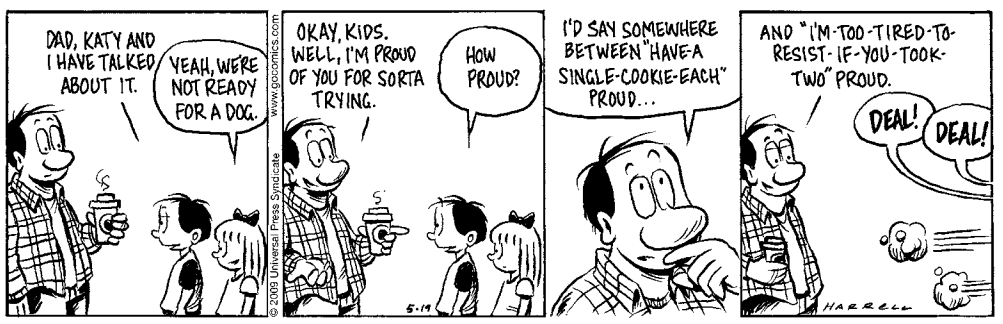
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Polygraph finds
5 Jewel
8 Emoticon, often
12 Against
13 Floral neckwear
14 Winter forecast
15 Yellowtail fish
17 Roll call reply
18 Hasten
19 Chest component
21 Fire
24 Bruin
25 Ripped
26 Fun-loving women of the 1920s
30 Common Mkt.
31 One-on-one exams
32 Compete
33 Coverings
35 Arizona city
36 Kegler's pathway
37 Talk-show group
38 Mexican entree
41 Cribbage scorer
42 PC symbol
43 They're catching
48 Gaelic
49 Charged bit
50 Nastase of tennis lore
51 Whatever's left over
52 Fox competitor
53 North Sea feeder

DOWN
1 Part of UNLV
2 Hostel
3 Greek vowel
4 Gas thief's device
5 Merriment
6 Always, in verse
7 Slip-ups at the poker table
8 One of the black keys
9 From the beginning
10 Heart
11 Basin accessory
16 Trench
20 Knocks
21 Mulligan, e.g.
22 Gardener, at times
23 Killer whale
24 Boombox sound
26 Wild
27 Still
28 Get up
29 Cachet
31 October stone
34 Pluto, once
35 Heckle or Jeckle
37 Energy
38 Layer
39 Farm fraction
40 Rolling stone's lack
41 Cookware
44 Plagiarize
45 Right angle
46 Cage component
47 Get a glimpse of

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	W	E	■	S	H	O	N	E	■	P	V	C
S	H	E	■	T	O	N	A	L	■	L	I	E
H	O	L	L	Y	W	O	O	D	■	A	I	D
■	■	■	I	L	L	■	M	E	A	N	I	E
T	A	I	P	E	I	■	I	S	N	T	■	■
E	L	F	■	S	N	L	■	T	I	F	F	S
D	U	E	S	■	G	O	T	■	S	O	O	N
S	M	E	L	T	■	G	E	E	■	O	B	I
■	■	L	I	A	R	■	A	M	I	D	S	T
B	I	G	T	O	E	■	C	B	S	■	■	■
A	D	O	■	I	N	T	H	E	M	O	O	D
L	E	O	■	S	E	W	E	R	■	D	U	O
D	A	D	■	T	E	A	R	S	■	E	R	R

Yesterday's answer 5-19

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13				14			
15				16				■	17			
■	■	■	18			■	19	20				
21	22	23			■	24				■	■	■
25				■	26					27	28	29
30			■	31					■	32		
33			34					■	35			
■	■	■	36				■	37				
38	39	40				■	41			■	■	■
42				■	43	44				45	46	47
48					49			■	50			
51				■	52			■	53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rachel Appleton, 17; Kyle Eastwood, 41; Grace Jones, 61; Pete Townshend, 64

Happy Birthday: Your proposals and services will be well received. Your emotions will be high and you will display passion and perseverance in all that you do. New doors will open, based on your performance and a friendship with someone who appreciates you for who you are. Valuable experience will grow with each task. Your numbers are 3, 14, 22, 25, 28, 30, 35

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't hold back when you have so much to offer. You can easily turn something small into a going concern. A relationship will take on a new life, offering you some tangible alternatives to consider. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (A*pril 20-May 20*): There are benefits you aren't aware of heading your direction. Your ability to be adaptable will be the deciding factor. Let someone else's experience guide you now but don't let anyone do the work for you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Cover your back. No one is going to step in and help, so prepare to go it alone. An unexpected emotional turn of events will cause you to alter plans at the last minute. Protect your rights and your assets. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't shy away from an opportunity to try something new or to get together with someone a little different than yourself. A change in your position and your direction is apparent. Embrace the unfamiliar and you will discover a whole new world awaits you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You cannot buy approval and are far better off winning your way into someone's favor by doing the right thing. Ferret out information about good investments. If something is just a fad or there isn't enough information, take a pass. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let someone get away with taking credit for something you did. You may have a change of heart if someone you have partnered with doesn't live up to his or her promise. A chance to work with someone you respect will lead to a new position. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Be tight with your cash. If someone is looking for you to pay his or her way, back away. Network with a creative, original group of people. Your charm will win you a good seat near the top. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't lose sight of your goals or you will fall behind schedule. Change will be required to get things done properly. Don't shy away from an honest suggestion. Personal changes will bring good results. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be honest and upfront about the way you feel and you will avoid problems at a later date. Establish comfortable surroundings that are harmonious with your character and lifestyle. Love and romance are on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone will take advantage of you or misrepresent you. An idea that will change your home environment or lifestyle should be considered carefully. Now is not the time to move from one job to another or to trust someone you know little about. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll have trouble keeping things straight. Don't rely on someone glorifying what's available but promising no guarantees. Get serious about what you want and explain your position concisely. Don't get sidetracked by unfair responsibilities. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't deviate from the truth as you know it. Emotional factors will play a role in what happens in your personal life. Complaints may be valid but that doesn't mean you have to give in. You have the choice to walk away and start over. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional and sensitive. You are loyal, steadfast and willing to make adjustments. You are a helper but not a follower.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6		4			1	8	
9	3							5
					5			2
2				5		3		
			2	4	6			
		8		1				7
7			8					
6							1	3
	1	5			3		9	

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	6	8	1	7	2	3	9
1	2	8	9	3	6	7	5	4
7	3	9	2	5	4	6	1	8
2	7	4	3	8	1	9	6	5
6	5	3	4	9	2	8	7	1
9	8	1	6	7	5	4	2	3
3	9	5	7	6	8	1	4	2
4	1	7	5	2	9	3	8	6
8	6	2	1	4	3	5	9	7

Difficulty Level ★ 5/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SATELLITE RADIO **Solution: 7 letters**

T	R	L	Y	C	N	E	U	Q	E	R	F	S	Q	O
S	E	O	L	E	L	B	A	T	R	O	P	U	R	R
N	G	C	D	E	V	E	N	T	O	E	A	B	E	E
O	U	A	H	A	N	S	T	T	C	L	I	S	T	D
I	L	T	S	N	O	N	P	I	I	T	T	C	T	I
T	A	I	P	A	O	R	A	T	T	A	T	R	S	V
A	T	O	O	I	I	L	Y	H	U	L	A	I	E	O
C	E	N	R	N	T	T	O	R	C	N	E	P	T	R
I	D	A	T	Y	S	I	A	G	S	A	Y	T	A	P
N	I	M	S	I	D	N	M	M	Y	M	T	I	L	E
U	S	A	T	U	T	A	I	O	A	E	E	O	T	G
M	H	R	A	S	E	T	A	L	K	O	I	N	U	N
M	A	D	N	R	E	P	E	A	T	E	R	S	N	A
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., : CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0142

Plaintiff,

-v-

RAMON T. METTAO and SURINE N. METTAO

Defendants.

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Attorney for Administrator

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF FRANCISCA SABLAN CELIS.
Decedent.

) CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0187
) **NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION RULES 11 & 16 COM.R.PRO.**
) Date : July 9, 2009
) Time :1:30 p.m.
) Judge : Hon.
) Robert C. Naraja

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Roque S. Celis, filed a Petition in the Superior Court praying that she appointed Administrator of the Estate of Francisca Sablan Celis, deceased to determine the heirs of the decedent and distribute any assets of decedent. The attorney of record is Colin M. Thompson, at PNO 917, Box 10001, Saipan, ND 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is set for July 9, 2009, in a courtroom of the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, at 1:30 p.m. All interested person should appear at this hearing.

All person having claims against the estate, or against the decedent should file their claims with the Clerk of Court for the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of Ns notice.

Date this 11th day of May, 2009.

/s/ By Deputy Clerk of Court

LAND FOR SALE

1. Subject Property. Real property is situated in Capitol Hill, Saipan, and known as Lot 150 E 12, (Part of Original Lot 150 E 07), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 150 E 04, the original of which was recorded 12 June 1995 as Document No. 95-1466 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan. Said property contains an area of 4,026 square meters, more or less.

2. Price. The property will be sold to the highest bidder.

3. Condition of Property. As is

4. Warranties and Covenants. The sale shall be without warranties of any kind, and it is the buyers' responsibility to verify title of the property.

5. Conduct of Sale. The sale will be held with reserve, which may or may not be disclosed to the bidders. Furthermore, the undersigned reserves the right to withdraw the property listed for sale at any time before the bid is accepted, or to reject any or all bids for any reason whatsoever. Furthermore, the sale shall be subject to the approval of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

6. Right of Redemption. Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4541, the property sold in this sale may be redeemed at any time, within 12 months after the date of sale, and in accordance with 2 CMC § 4542.

7. Contact Information. Please submit written offers to Frances C. Quichocho, at the Law Offices of Ramon K. Quichocho, LLC, on the 2nd Floor, Sign Arts Building, San Jose, P.O. Box 505621, Saipan, MP 96950, by no later than June 02, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact the undersigned at 670.234.8946.

/s/ Ramon K. Quichocho

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• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

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ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Real Lakers show up, rout Rockets in Game 7

LOS ANGELES (AP)—All is well again in La-La Land. The real Los Angeles Lakers showed up, and in a Game 7, no less.

With Pau Gasol dominating on both ends of the court, the Lakers emphatically silenced the doubters and the Houston Rockets, winning the decisive final game of the Western Conference semifinals 89-70 on Sunday.

Playing with emotion, Gasol scored 21 points and grabbed 18 rebounds. The Lakers looked like the conference's top-seeded team, not the maddeningly inconsistent one that was pushed to the limit by the undermanned, smaller Rockets.

Trying to reach the NBA finals for the second straight year, the Lakers host the opener of the conference finals against the Denver Nuggets on Tuesday night. Los Angeles won three of four from Denver this season.

The Lakers have been so up and down in this series that coach Phil Jackson said before Game 5 that they had a little bit of Jekyll and Hyde in them. That was the night the Lakers raced to a 40-point win at home, only to follow it up two nights later with a 15-point loss, the second straight game they were blind-sided in Houston.

There are any number of theories as to why the Lakers have had a split personality.

Asked what the Lakers learned from this series, Kobe Bryant cracked: "That we're bipolar."

Added Lamar Odom: "To make it interesting. It's Hollywood, you know."

It turns out that home-court advantage and a smothering defense were all it took to jumpstart the Lakers, who made sure they didn't choke this one away against the No. 5 seed.

The Lakers dominated the paint on both ends, forcing the Rockets into turnovers and bad shots. The owned the backboards, taking a 55-33 advantage, and blocked 10 shots. They had an 8-0 lead a few minutes in and widened it to 25 points on Gasol's jump hook shortly before halftime.

After the game, Bryant patted Gasol on the shoulder and offered words of congratulations.

"I was just proud of the way he played," Bryant said. "He answered the challenge and he played like one of the best players in the world. I was just excited for him."

Gasol kept Rockets point guard Aaron Brooks from penetrating, as he did often in this series. The Spaniard had 12 defensive rebounds and swatted away three shots.

"We all know what he can do offensively. I just felt like defensively, he had a superb game," Bryant said.

Gasol made 10 of 19 shots. He left to a nice ovation with 3:34 remaining in the game.

Trevor Ariza scored 15 points while Bryant and Andrew Bynum had 14 apiece. Bryant added five assists and seven rebounds.

Brooks was held to 13 points and Luis Scola to 11 for Houston. Ron Artest (seven points) and Shane Battier (three) were non-factors.

"I think we learned that if we play hard every night and we're ready to compete, starting on the defensive end, we're going to give ourselves a chance," Gasol said. "Hopefully we're going to carry that into the next round and to a championship. That's something we need to do consistently, no matter what, no matter where we play."

AP

Los Angeles Lakers center Pau Gasol, left, of Spain, puts up a shot as Houston Rockets forward Luis Scola, right, of Argentina, looks on during the first half of Game 7 of an NBA Western Conference playoff basketball series, Sunday, May 17, 2009, in Los Angeles.

This one was practically over before the fans settled into their seats.

With Houston missing its first 12 shots, Los Angeles used two Houston turnovers and a blocked shot in racing to an 8-0 lead. Gasol blocked a shot by Scola and fed Bryant for a layup. Scola's turnover led to Ariza's tip-in of Gasol's miss. A turnover by Brooks set up Ariza's 3-pointer, forcing Houston to call timeout with 9:32 to go in the quarter.

Houston missed seven shots during the next 2 1/2 minutes, and didn't get on the scoreboard until Brooks made two free throws just more than five minutes in.

"Coming in here for Game 7, we knew they were going to give us their best shot, especially in the first quarter," Battier said. "To be honest with you, we just didn't have energy to match it. Unfortunately, after we got past the first quarter we played them pretty straight up, but the damage had been done at that point."

Magic 101, Celtics 82

At Boston, Dwight Howard and Hedo Turkoglu helped dethrone the defending champion Boston Celtics and give Orlando a chance to bring a crown to the Magic Kingdom.

Howard had 12 points, 16 rebounds and five blocked shots, and Turkoglu had 25 points with 12 assists in Game 7 on Sunday night, leading Orlando into the Eastern Conference finals 101-82.

Orlando trailed for just 36 seconds and built a lead it couldn't squander to earn the right to play LeBron James and the Cavaliers for a spot in the NBA finals. Game 1 is Wednesday in Cleveland; Orlando won the season series 2-1.

"We believe. We believe we can go all the way," Howard said. "It's going to get harder."

Ray Allen scored 23 points for Boston, and Paul Pierce had 16 before they were taken out of the game for a courtesy cheer with 2:30 left and the Magic up 99-78. The other member of the new Big Three, Kevin Garnett, awaited them on the bench, where he watched the whole series in street clothes with a right knee strain.

Garnett's absence derailed the Celtics' title defense before it got started, forcing them to fight through a seven-overtime, seven-game series against Chicago in the first round and leaving them perpetually playing from behind in the second.

"We still felt like this was a team that could have gone to the championship and won it, regardless of the injuries," Pierce said. "It felt like we ran out of gas."

Celtics coach Doc Rivers said Garnett had been holding off on having surgery on the chance he could come back if the team prolonged its season.

"There's no way he was going to play the next series," Rivers said. "We were hoping. But I didn't think it will happen."

Celtics didn't have enough without KG

BOSTON (AP)—Already down double digits with their title defense on the line, the Boston Celtics sent three second-round picks out to start the second quarter.

That's not exactly a Big Three.

And that's why the Celtics won't repeat as champions. Doc Rivers said before the game the NBA is a players' league, and he simply didn't have enough of them.

Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen made Boston the NBA's best. With Garnett sidelined and Pierce and Allen overworked, the Celtics were just a .500 team—7-7 in this postseason after a 101-82 loss to Orlando on Sunday in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

It must have pained Rivers that every time he turned to his right to look down the bench for a player to put in, he had to look over Garnett's head. Last year, he could tap solid role players such as James Posey, P.J. Brown and Leon Powe. The first two are gone and Powe's on the injured list with Garnett.

That left Glen Davis and Brian Scalabrine, two of those second rounders, to defend Rashard Lewis, an All-Star who scored 19 points. Think Garnett might have done better?

"I thought it was the combination of Kevin and Leon that hurt us," Rivers said. "Obviously we missed Kevin. He was the defensive player of the year last year."

The Celtics built last year's team on the defensive standard Garnett set and demanded teammates live up to. The Lakers were practically untouched in the playoffs until the finals, when the Celtics hit Kobe Bryant with a defense that was as good as he'd ever seen.

Without Garnett, and without a legitimate stopper like Posey, there was no chance of that this time. The Celtics entered Sunday's game yielding 102.2 points per game in the playoffs, 12th among the 16 teams who made the postseason and more than 13 above last spring's average.

"This has been different," Rivers said before the game. "Each night almost we've been a different team. We've been an offensive team in some of the Chicago games and some of these games, and we won a couple games being a defensive team. Obviously we know who we would like to be every night, but it just hasn't worked out that way."

And it didn't Sunday. Dwight Howard threw down three dunks in the first 6 1/2 minutes, and it seemed every time the Celtics seemed poised to make a run, they would blow an assignment and give up an easy basket on a pick-and-roll—a play Garnett was so good at defending.

Pierce said after he the game he thought the Celtics were good enough to repeat, "when we have a healthy group of guys."

"You can't cry over spilled milk, but unfortunately we didn't have the big fella for this run," he added.

Considering what they had, it's almost surprising the Celtics didn't go out sooner.

If Chicago doesn't allow Allen to get so open off a screen late in Game 2, the Bulls might have taken a 2-0 lead back home, instead of being tied at one game apiece. If Davis doesn't knock down a jumper as time expired in Game 4 of this series—a shot the Magic would settle for him taking any time—Orlando wins that game, then could have wrapped it up in Game 5, which it led by 14 points in the fourth quarter before collapsing.

The Celtics had the Game 7 experience, winning three of them in the last two years. But that was without having to rely so heavily on the likes of Davis, Scalabrine and Eddie House.

The Celtics knew they didn't have enough if an injury happened. They wanted to keep Posey, but after he'd won his two rings in three years, even Garnett understood why he went for the millions New Orleans offered. They kept in touch with Brown during the season, but there was no coaxing him into coming back.

The teams still playing for a title found ways to get better during the season. Orlando traded for Rafer Alston after All-Star point guard Jameer Nelson was lost with a shoulder injury. The Cavaliers brought in Joe Smith. Everyone knows the difference Chauncey Billups made for Denver.

The best the Celtics could do was Stephon Marbury, who sparked the Game 5 comeback but otherwise hasn't rediscovered his game after sitting out most of the season in New York, and Mikki Moore, who never took off his warmup jersey in Game 7 until the final meaningless minutes.

Still, the Celtics refused to go out in the first round, surviving a thrilling series with the Bulls before going the distance with the Magic. But even if they won this series, it would've been hard to imagine a way they could beat Cleveland - which would have been tough even with Garnett.

Rivers said he'd leave it up to the critics to decide if the Celtics' title defense was good enough if they lost this series, but added only one thing would satisfy him: "Winning."

Not with this roster.

Dungy says Michael Vick wants second chance

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Former Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy says Michael Vick wants a second chance when he's out of prison.

Dungy met with Vick last week at the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., where Vick is serving a 23-month sentence for bankrolling a dogfighting conspiracy.

Dungy spoke Wednesday at a workshop in Indianapolis for offenders seeking jobs. He compared Vick's situation as he nears his release from prison to theirs.

Dungy didn't discuss details of his visit with Vick, but told The Associated Press that the former Atlanta Falcons quarterback made a mistake.

Vick is to be transferred May 21 to home confinement in Hampton, Va., which is scheduled to last through July.

Johnson repeats as champion in playoff

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—James Driscoll didn't see where Zach Johnson's approach landed on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff Sunday.

He didn't have to. Thanks to the gallery, he heard it.

"I figured it was about 10 feet," Driscoll said.

The crowd got even louder when Johnson sank the birdie putt to successfully defend his Texas Open title and end Driscoll's unlikely final-round surge from eight strokes back at La Cantera Golf Club.

Johnson's win capped a wild shootout in which seven players stood within a stroke with four holes left. The 2007 Masters champion followed his third-round 60 with a 70 to match Driscoll at 15-under 265, then hit the 6-iron approach in the playoff set up his sixth career PGA Tour victory.

"I feel very lucky," said Johnson, who earned $1,098,000.

Johnson vaulted to the top of the FedEx Cup standings, passing Geoff Ogilvy and Phil Mickelson—the only other two-time winners on the PGA Tour this season. Johnson also won the Sony Open in January.

Paul Goydos had a one-stroke lead with two holes to play, but closed with two bogeys for a 69, leaving him a stroke back along with Bill Haas (65), who birdied five of six holes on Nos. 11 through 16 but missed a 6-foot putt on the par-3 17th.

Australia's Marc Leishman (68), Sweden's Fredrik Jacobson (67) and three-time champion Justin Leonard (69) finished at 13 under.

Driscoll was an afterthought at 7 under when the final round began, eight strokes behind Johnson and his group that included Goydos and Leonard. After wrapping up his 62, Driscoll had to wait more than an hour for Johnson to finish his round.

It was worth the wait, but it didn't last long.

"You want to put the pressure on your opponent. There's no doubt about it," Johnson said. "It's not like he hit a bad shot. He hit 20-plus feet. He hit a good putt. So it just kind of went my way."

Driscoll was in position for the biggest comeback in the history of the Texas Open, which dates to 1922 and is the third-oldest event on the PGA Tour. Instead, Driscoll settled for only his third top-10 finish and finish since a runner-up effort in the 2005 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

"When you get that close to a win and that close to going to Augusta and going to Hawaii for the first tournament of the year, it's a little disappointing," said Driscoll, who has conditional status on the tour after finishing 141st on the money list last year.

Goydos briefly topped a crowded leaderboard with a 13-foot birdie putt on the par-4 16th before falling back on the last two holes, putting the 44-year-old and sympathetic favorite out of the running.

Goydos was playing four months to the day his former wife died. His final flaw, muffing his chip shot to a measly 7 feet on 18, denied him a spot in the playoff.

Goydos, who started the round two strokes back, led after 36 and was eyeing his first tour victory since 2007.

"For 70 holes I did really good," Goydos said. "Didn't hit a good putt on 17 and didn't hit a good shot on 18. And guys who play like that will do it."

Johnson is the first repeat winner at La Cantera since Leonard in 2000 and 2001. Leonard was a stroke back at 14 under through 16, but his chances at a record fourth Texas Open title ended when his 7-foot putt on 17 didn't reach the hole for par.

Next year, the tournament will move to a Greg Norman-designed TPC course.

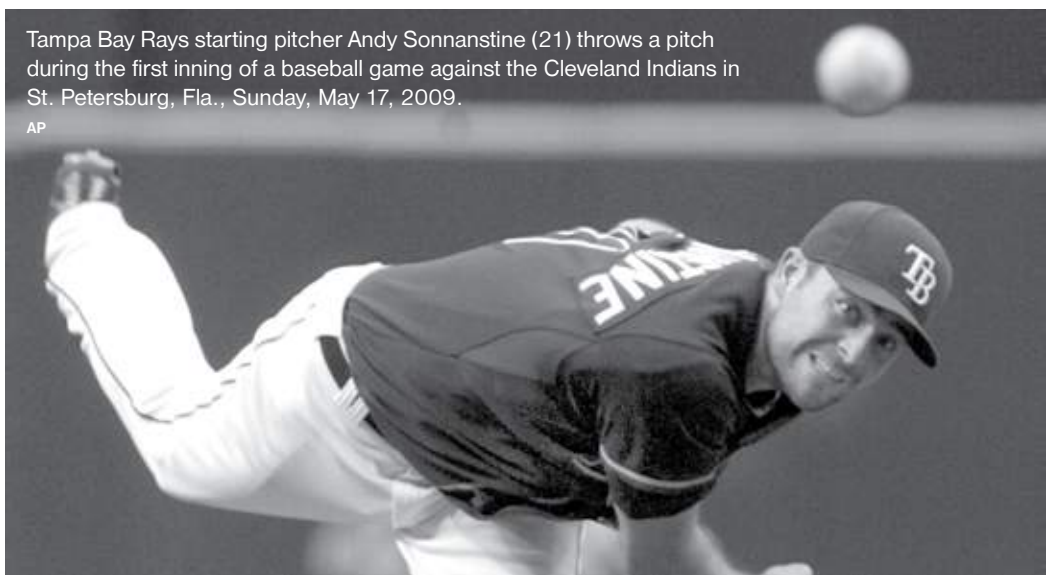
AP

Zach Johnson, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, kisses his trophy after winning the Texas Open golf tournament in San Antonio, Sunday, May 17, 2009.

Sonnanstine gets win and RBI double

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Andy Sonnanstine delivered after a pregame mistake forced the pitcher to bat Sunday, hitting an RBI double in the Rays' 7-5 victory over the Indians.

The game was delayed 13 minutes before the bottom of the first due to a lineup card error by the Rays that listed both Ben Zobrist and Evan Longoria as the third baseman. Longoria was supposed to be DH, but Tampa Bay lost that position because of the snafu and was forced to put Sonnanstine in the third spot of the lineup.



Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Andy Sonnanstine (21) throws a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Indians in St. Petersburg, Fla., Sunday, May 17, 2009.

AP

Yankees 3, Twins 2, 10 innings

At New York, Johnny Damon homered in the 10th inning, giving the Yankees their third straight comeback win over the Twins that was capped by a game-ending hit.

Alex Rodriguez homered in the seventh to start New York's rally from a two-run deficit, as the Yankees extended their winning streak to a season-best five games.

Mariners 3, Red Sox 2

At Seattle, Franklin Gutierrez singled under the glove of third baseman Mike Lowell to score Ronny Cedeno with two outs in the ninth inning and give the Mariners the win.

Cedeno reached second with two outs, after what should have been his third-out grounder was thrown into a camera well behind first base on the fly by shortstop Nick Green for a generously scored single and error, Green's second of the game and eighth of the season.

Tigers 11, Athletics 7

At Detroit, Ramon Santiago and Curtis Granderson each hit three-run homers, and the Tigers overcame a six-run deficit to finish a three-game sweep of the A's.

Santiago, who also had an RBI triple among his four hits and scored three runs, put Detroit ahead 8-6 with his homer off Santiago Casilla.

Blue Jays 8, White Sox 2

At Toronto, Roy Halladay won his fifth straight start, Adam Lind hit one of three Toronto homers and the Blue Jays won their AL-leading 26th game.

Halladay (8-1) surpassed Kansas City right-hander Zack Greinke for the major league lead in wins by allowing two runs, one earned, over seven innings. He also lowered his ERA to 2.78, and has gone at least seven innings or more in all nine starts this season.

Rangers 3, Angels 0

At Arlington, Texas, Scott Feldman and three relievers combined on a five-hitter and David Murphy hit a sacrifice fly that helped the Rangers to their seventh straight win.

Ian Kinsler and Marlon Byrd also had RBI doubles for the Rangers, who have their longest streak since winning nine straight from May 20-31, 2005. Texas has won 13 of 15 and leads the Angels by 4 1/2 games in the division, and moved nine games over .500 (23-14) for the first time since June 1, 2005.

Royals 7, Orioles 4

At Kansas City, Mo., John Buck's RBI triple snapped an eighth-inning tie, and the Royals overcame four errors to beat the Orioles.

Jose Cruz (3-0), the fourth Royals pitcher, retired all six batters he faced for his 11th straight winning decision. He has not lost since June 9, 2007, when he was with Arizona.

Buck connected off Jim Johnson (2-2) for his third triple of the season after David DeJesus doubled leading off the eighth. Buck then scored to make it 6-4 on a sacrifice bunt by Willie Bloomquist, who was safe on a fielder's choice and eventually scored on Billy Butler's single.

Dodgers 12, Marlins 5

At Miami, at first, Clayton Kershaw's pitching had teammates sprinting and diving for balls. Then he found a groove and flirted with a no-hitter.

The bid ended with Cody Ross' double leading off the eighth inning, ending Kershaw's day, and the Los Angeles Dodgers settled for a four-hitter to beat the Florida Marlins 12-5 Sunday.

Giant 2, Mets 0

At San Francisco, Matt Cain stymied New York and singled in a run to help San Francisco ended an eight-game losing streak to the Mets.

Bengie Molina also had an RBI single as San Francisco snapped a four-game skid and avoided a four-game home sweep in a game that featured a rare three balks by Mets starter Mike Pelfrey (4-1).

Astros 6, Cubs 5

At Chicago, Ivan Rodriguez hit his 300th home run, Lance Berkman had two hits and an RBI and Houston snapped the Cubs' five-game winning streak.

Houston starter Brian Moehler (1-0) pitched five innings to get his first victory since Sept. 10, 2008, against Pittsburgh.

Brewers 8, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, Prince Fielder hit his fourth homer in the last five games to help Milwaukee win its fifth in a row.

Manny Parra (3-4) won his third straight start and the Brewers got two-run singles from J.J. Hardy and Jason Kendall to win their 11th in 13 games.

Phillies 8, Nationals 6

At Washington, a two-base error on an eighth-inning bunt provided the go-ahead run as the Phillies completed a sweep.

Sergio Escalona (1-0), called up overnight from Double-A Reading, got the win in his major league debut by throwing one scoreless inning of middle relief, practically a standout performance among the only two National League clubs with team ERAs over 5.00.

Pirates 11, Rockies 4

At Pittsburg, Nate McLouth had three of his four RBIs during a 10-run seventh inning, and the Pirates came from behind to take their second straight from Colorado.

The first 11 batters reached in the seventh for Pittsburgh, which trailed 4-1 entering the inning but scored at least 10 runs in an inning for the first time since Aug. 20, 2003.

Padres 3, Reds 1

At San Diego, Jake Peavy threw a four-hitter, Kevin Kouzmanoff drove in two runs and the Padres beat Cincinnati after needing eight pitchers in a 16-inning victory the previous night.

Peavy (3-5) gave the Padres' bullpen a rest, winning for the first time in six starts and running his career mark against Cincinnati to 6-0 with a 2.28 ERA.

G4S, MBI debut with wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

GS4 and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. started their campaign in the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on a winning note, posting separate wins last Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

G4S walloped Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in the first game, 84-60, while MBI edged Pacific Trading, Co., 75-72, in the second match.

An anemic Fiesta offense in the first quarter allowed GS4 to seize control of the game early, leading at 19-9 after 10 minutes of play.

Fiesta could not still find its rhythm in the second quarter, while GS4 continued to draw contributions from every player it fielded in the game to increase the lead to 25 at halftime, 43-18.

GS4 never looked back from thereon, as Fiesta failed to make headway in the second half.

Manolito Basa and Junar Guiab led GS4's debut win, nailing 15 points apiece, while Orlando Soriano also finished in double figures with 11 markers.

Jon March Ong and Mark Rabago were the only two players to score in double figures for Fiesta, tallying 10 each.

In the second game, Aries Cordero fired all his 12 points in the fourth quarter to help MBI halt Pacific Trading's rally in the fourth quarter.

Behind by eight at the end of the third period, 45-53, PTC worked its way back in the game behind Jojo Garon, Erlan Lansang, and Frank Sarmiento. The trio combined for 25 of PTC's 27 points in the fourth period, but Garon and Sarmiento muffed several free throws that could have won the game for them. Garon was 2-for-5 from the foul line in the payoff mark, while Sarmiento went 3-for-6.

In contrast, MBI went perfect from the foul line in the fourth period, going 4-for-4, and Cordero hit timely baskets to keep the lead and the win.

Art Trajano led MBI with 13 points, while Jeff Garcia equaled Cordero's 12 points. Erlan Lansang led PTC's losing cause with 24 markers.

First Game

G4S 84 – Basa 15, Guiab 15, Soriano 11, Sison 6, Chavez 5, Banatasa 4, Aquino 4, Hermoso 4, Angeles 4, Caras 4, Larioza 2.

Fiesta 60 – Ong 10, Rabago 10, De La Torre 7, Licop 7, Maliwanag 6, Moran 6, Mojar 5, Solidom 3, Salazar 2, Rodriguez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-9, 43-18, 51-37, 84-60.

Second Game

MBI 75 – Trajano 13, Garcia 12, Cordero 12, Achas 11, Alvarez 9, Barbo 8, Cabrera 4, Sese 2, Blas 2, Prado 2.

PTC 72 – Lansang 24, Garon 21, Sarmiento 13, Taisacan 6, Maglaya 4, Skilang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-8, 32-27, 53-45, 75-72.

Koala Wanderers arrive today

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Marianas Walking Association will welcome back members of the Koala Wanderers International Club of German who will be arriving on Saipan today.

The group, headed by Manfred Trettin, will not have much time to get over their jetlag as they will immediately be taking part in the Koala Wanderers IVV Saipan and Tinian Walk at 4pm.

Registration for the 10-kilometer walk will be at Hafadai Beach Hotel in Garapan at 4pm. From there, participants will walk south along the Saipan Beach Pathway toward the bus stop close to the Oleai Bar and Grill.

Aside from the long course, MWA is also designating a 5-km course where the turnaround point is the old World War II Japanese tank in the corner of Quartermaster Road and Beach Road.

Registration for the Saipan phase of the Koala Wanderers IVV Saipan and Tinian Walk is free and participants can also partake of free drinks and fruits.

The Tinian phase will be held two days later on May 21. It will be exclusive to members of Koala Wanderers and MWA and will entail a jaunt around the historical and scenic spots of the island beginning at the old airport.

Trettin and company first visited the island in May 2005 for the World Walking Day organized by the Saipan Walking Association, Inc. The group also visited Saipan the following year take and also took part in the same event.

During their visit in 2006, the group signed an agreement with Saipan Walking Association, the former name of MWA, that in essence called on both walking associations to keep each informed about the other's activities and help other walking association around the world to promote walking, all in the spirit of international friendship.

For more information about MWA and its future events, contact Mario Espeleta at 322-8876, Hiroko Tajima at 322-8785, or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694.

YVONNE

From Page 28

thwarting Duhig (1:10.93) and Sapong (1:14.31).

Yvonne's most impressive race was in the 4x100m relay run, as she came from behind and beat an MHS runner in a down-to-the-wire finish. Yvonne was still behind in the last 10 meters of the relay race when she surprised MHS' fourth runner and the crowd, reaching the finish line few steps ahead of the Lady Dolphins finisher. The official times in the 4x100m relay race were unavailable at press time, but it was the closest run in the two-day meet.

Besides Yvonne, other multiple gold medalist in this year's All Schools meet were Hopwood Junior High School's Brandon Phillip, Rachel Abrams, and Joanne Reyes, and MHS' Lia Rangamar and Champ Untalan

Phillip won in the boys' U14 100 and 200m runs, timing in at 12.81 seconds and 26.21 seconds, respectively. Phillip won his third gold medal after his victory in the U14 long jump.

Phillip's schoolmate, Reyes and Abrams, claimed two gold medals apiece in the girls' U14. Abrams ruled the 100m run (14.02 seconds) and 200m race (30.38) while Reyes prevailed in long-distance events, winning the 800m run (3:01.54) and 3,000m (13:34.01).

Rangamar topped field events, placing first in the girls' U18 long jump and javelin and shot put throws, while Untalan triumphed in running events. Untalan finished first in the 800m run (2:15.16) and 1,500m race (5:09.51).

In the U14 1,500m race, Saipan Community School's Justin Poon dominated the boys division, while Hopwood's Chris Obaldo won in the girls division. The girls' U18 1,500m gold medal went to Duhig.

In the 3,000m race, brothers Michael and Matt Mancao topped the U14 and U18 divisions after clocking in at 12:29.40 and 11:08.00, respectively.

Winners in other running events were Northern Marianas Academy's Daniel Hee Yun (U18 100m), Hopwood's Charles Bautista (U14 800m), MHS' Sapong (U18 800m), Hopwood's Kenneth Babauta and Samantha Marquez (U14 400m), and MHS' Clayton Kenty (U18 400m).

In the field events, winners were Hopwood's Richard Saturno and Rita Delavillano (U14 javelin throw), Kagman's Christian Aguon (U18 javelin), Saipan International School's Lani Russel (U14 long jump), MHS' Greg Duatin (U18 long jump), SCS' Dae Hyun Kim and Chacha Oceanview's Dorothy Jebehn (U14 shot put), and Kagman's Kroy Ogo (U18 shot put).

GUAMANIANS

From Page 28

two championship trophies after also winning the individual division courtesy of his haul of 86 lbs.

Genereux was a happy second placer to his partner after complementing Driscoll with his own 64.5 lbs. of fish.

Russell made the host island proud with his catch of 49 lbs., while local boys Felix Sasamoto and Derek San Nicolas complete the Top 5 with their catch of 40 lbs. and 39 lbs, respectively.

Driscoll said topping the individual division came as a big surprise for him.

"I really didn't expect to win. It's just luck because whoever catches the big fish wins and I just happened to be the one. My game plan was to have a good time and just be safe. Our boatman also showed us all the good spots," he said.

Driscoll said while he is looking forward to coming back for the fourth staging of the event next year, he is not really that eager to defend his championship.

"Next year I will definately come back to have fun. If I win, I win. If I lose I'm just having fun," he said.

Driscoll also thanked their boatman Ben Camacho for picking the right spots for them to fish.

The angler Driscoll succeeded as individual champion, his own partner Genereux, also gave credit to their skipper for his expert instincts in choosing rich fishing spots.

"Good team member and a very good boatman. A lot of hard work in rough water is just about what all I can say about that. Today we went to a new place we never tried before. We're getting more familiar and next time we'll come we pretty much know. It took us about 45 minutes to come to our first spot," he said.

Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club president Morito Asai said a total of 34 spearfishermen took part in the 3rd Annual Saipan Spearfishing Tournament, of which 12 were members of Guam-based Marianas Underwater Fishing Federation.

PATS

From Page 28

topping the regular season wit a 12-2 record.

"We play in honor of our troops, whom we know will cheer for us or even play our sport if they were here. They are our heroes for our freedom, " said Mizer, whose 21-year-old daughter is of the U.S. troops in Iraq.

The Pats manager said the Patriots baseball club was established in 2005 in honor of CNMI soldiers. Veteran of Foreign Wars sponsored the team's inaugural campaign in SLLB. The following year, the Pats under the sponsorship of Joeten Motors went on to win the Majors division. They kept the title in 2007 and 2008 under the banner of SaipanCell (now Docomo Pacific) before moving up to the Junior League.

In the Junior League, the Pats had their players' parents as sponsors and the "Army Mommies Club."

Coach Manny Sablan and assistant coach Bill Camacho brought the core of the Pats team in the Major League to the Junior League. They are Jared Sablan, Jeremy and Henry Rabauliman, Brian Camacho, Chris Mizer, Tyler Kaipat, and Allan Aguon. Beefing up the Pats are former stalwarts of other Major League teams, Franklin Santos, Austin Lizama, and Juljean Ngeskebei. Completing the team are Richard Borja and Carlos Rabauliman.

"These are the bunch of guys who were thought the basic and right way of playing ball at a very young age, so when they moved up to the Junior League, they are ready for the tougher challenge," Sablan said.

Sablan added the Pats' discipline is commendable.

"They come early for the game and frequently attend training sessions. They do what they are ask to do on and off the field. With that kind of discipline, dedication, and team work, we expected the team to excel in the Junior League," Sablan said.

RITES

From Page 28

Meanwhile, Marianas Elite top gun Maitai "The Charger" Charley will be throwing down with Trench Tech hotshot Tom "Light Out" Kim in another undercard fight.

Tickets for Rites of Passage 7: Fists of Fury are sold for $25 and are available at Boarderline, 670 Rocksteady Shop, Hannam Market, Mobil Kagman, Flair bar, and Trench Tech Gym.

For more information on Rites of Passage 7: Fists of Fury or mixed martial arts in general, contact Alvarez at 483-4MMA.

In related news, Trench Tech Gym head instructor Tetsuji Kato lost to Kenichiro Togashi via decision in one of the undercards for Shooto Japan's 20th Anniversary held last May 8 in Japan.

Kato, who dropped to a professional MMA record of 20 wins and 9 losses, lost in the scorecard of their welterweight bout, 28-30, 29-29, 28-29.

He has been living and training local MMA enthusiasts on Saipan for the last five years.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	26	14	.650	-
Boston	22	16	.579	3
New York	20	17	.541	4 1/2
Tampa Bay	19	20	.487	6 1/2
Baltimore	16	22	.421	9

Central Division

Detroit	20	16	.556	-
Kansas City	20	18	.526	1
Minnesota	18	20	.474	3
Chicago	15	20	.429	4 1/2
Cleveland	14	25	.359	7 1/2

West Division

Texas	23	14	.622	-
Los Angeles	18	18	.500	4 1/2
Seattle	17	20	.459	6
Oakland	13	21	.382	8 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	21	16	.568	-
Philadelphia	20	16	.556	1/2
Atlanta	18	18	.500	2 1/2
Florida	18	20	.474	3 1/2
Washington	11	25	.306	9 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	23	14	.622	-
Chicago	21	15	.583	1 1/2
St. Louis	21	16	.568	2
Cincinnati	20	17	.541	3
Houston	17	19	.472	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	16	21	.432	7

West Division

Los Angeles	26	13	.667	-
San Francisco	19	18	.514	6
San Diego	16	22	.421	9 1/2
Colorado	14	22	.389	10 1/2
Arizona	14	23	.378	11

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Dodgers 12, Florida 5
Arizona at Atlanta, ppd.,
Pittsburgh 11, Colorado 4
Philadelphia 8, Washington 6
Milwaukee 8, St. Louis 2
Houston 6, Chicago Cubs 5
San Diego 3, Cincinnati 1
San Francisco 2, N.Y. Mets 0 Sunday's Games
Detroit 11, Oakland 7
N.Y. Yankees 3, Minnesota 2, 10 innings
Toronto 8, Chicago White Sox 2
Tampa Bay 7, Cleveland 5
Texas 3, L.A. Angels 0
Kansas City 7, Baltimore 4
Seattle 3, Boston 2

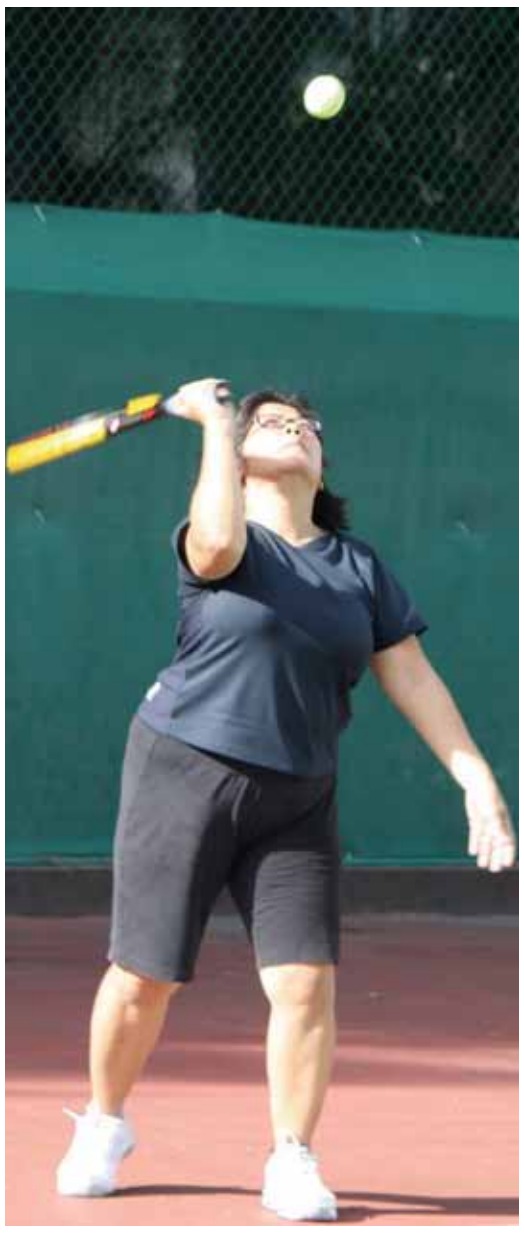
VALERO TEXAS OPEN

FINAL ROUND

x-Zach Johnson	68	67	60	70	265
James Driscoll	67	69	67	62	265
Paul Goydos	63	65	69	69	266
Bill Haas	67	67	67	65	266
Brian Davis	65	67	69	66	267
Fredrik Jacobson	66	66	68	67	267
Marc Leishman	64	69	66	68	267
Justin Leonard	63	68	67	69	267
Stephen Ames	66	67	68	67	268
Charley Hoffman	70	69	63	66	268
Todd Fischer	70	67	64	69	270
Mathias Gronberg	66	65	69	70	270
Jonathan Kaye	71	68	63	68	270
Scott Sterling	68	63	69	70	270
Garrett Willis	68	70	65	67	270
Mark Wilson	67	72	67	64	270
Kris Blanks	70	65	70	66	271
Bob Estes	67	70	66	68	271
Brandt Jobe	70	65	70	66	271
Frank Lickliter II	69	68	65	69	271
Scott McCarron	70	67	67	67	271
James Nitties	68	69	66	68	271
Patrick Sheehan	68	68	68	67	271
Tim Herron	68	71	68	65	272
Dustin Johnson	74	65	62	71	272
Bill Lunde	73	65	67	67	272
Shaun Micheel	67	72	63	70	272
Paul Stankowski	70	69	67	66	272
Scott Verplank	67	70	67	68	272
Jimmy Walker	70	66	68	68	272
Matt Weibring	67	70	65	70	272
Tim Clark	67	69	67	70	273
J.J. Henry	66	70	66	71	273
Kent Jones	67	65	70	71	273
Matt Jones	67	69	72	65	273
Jeff Maggert	64	70	73	66	273
Greg Owen	65	68	68	72	273
Corey Pavin	66	72	66	69	273
Kevin Stadler	67	68	68	70	273
Mark Brooks	71	68	65	70	274
Wil Collins	67	69	68	70	274
Marco Dawson	68	68	69	69	274
Lee Janzen	66	68	69	71	274
David Peoples	72	67	68	67	274
Martin Piller	69	70	64	71	274
Charlie Wi	68	71	64	71	274
Eric Axley	72	67	68	68	275
Briny Baird	68	66	69	72	275
Chris DiMarco	72	66	67	70	275
Harrison Frazar	67	69	68	71	275
Robert Gates	73	64	67	71	275
John Mallinger	67	64	72	72	275
Troy Matteson	72	66	68	69	275
Aron Price	69	66	70	70	275
Ted Purdy	64	67	71	73	275
Vaughn Taylor	70	68	69	68	275
Bart Bryant	70	66	69	71	276
Greg Chalmers	69	67	70	70	276
J.P. Hayes	71	62	74	69	276
Chad Campbell	68	69	72	68	277
Jay Williamson	69	68	70	70	277
Gary Woodland	67	70	69	71	277
David Duval	66	69	72	71	278
Carlos Franco	71	66	70	71	278
Jason Gore	70	69	67	73	279
Rocco Mediate	69	70	68	72	279
Matt Bettencourt	68	71	69	72	280
Scott Gutschewski	71	66	69	74	280
Richard S. Johnson	71	68	68	73	280
Charles Warren	70	66	70	74	280
Nathan Green	70	69	66	76	281
Anthony Kim	69	69	70	73	281
Tag Ridings	69	66	74	73	282
Matt Loving	72	67	72	72	283
Billy Andrade	72	67	71	76	286

By The Associated Press

2009 IT&E Summer Tennis Tournament



Yuri Hatamata has her eyes on the ball during her semis match against Melanie Daly in the women's 4.0 singles.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Delia Johnson prepares to serve against Maru Villanueva in their women's 3.0 singles match.

Maru Villanueva serves during her match against Delia Johnson in the women's 3.0 singles.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Melanie Daly goes for a backhand return during her semis match against Yuri Hatamata in the women's 4.0 singles division of the 2009 IT&E Summer Tennis Tournament early this month at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Men's 4.0 singles runner-up Richard Brostom is flanked by champion Dong Ik Jang, right, and third placer Jake Lee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2009 IT&E Summer Tennis Tournament organizer and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis instructor Peter Loyola, right, pose with Level 2 winners, from right, champion Seiya Eda, runner-up Sakura Imaya, third placer Alex Park, and fourth finisher Tomo Hatamata.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Women's 4.0 winners, from left, Melanie Daly (4th), Sakiko Eda (3rd), Yuri Hatamata (2nd), and Lydia Tan (1st).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Men's 3.0 singles winners pose for a group photo, from left, Carl Dela Cruz (representing his father and fourth placer Darnel), third finisher Rick Presinede, runner-up Edward Armia, and champion Chris Fizer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Top 4 placers in the women's 3.0 singles, from left, Sarah Brostrom (4th), Delia Johnson (3rd), Ling Lihua (2nd), and Vickie Izuka (1st) pose with their medals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Women's 2.0 singles champion Sue Knecht, right, is joined by four other participants during the awards ceremony at Fiesta Resorts & Spa Saipan.

Real Lakers show up, rout Rockets in Game 7

All is well again in La-La Land. The real Los Angeles Lakers showed up, and in a Game 7, no less. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

G4S, MBI debut with wins

GS4 and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. started their campaign in the Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on a winning note, posting separate wins last Sunday at the JP Center Basketball Court. 26

Yvonne dominates sprint races

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI's top sprinter Yvonne Bennett lived up to expectations, dominating three individual races in the 2009 All Schools Track and Field Championships held last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Micronesia's fastest woman clocked in 13.26 seconds in the 100m race to down four other runners, including twin sister Yvette (13.45), and win her first individual gold medal in the girls U18 division. Yvonne holds the CNMI National Record in the 100m at 13.04 seconds.

In the 200m race, Yvonne timed in at 28.16 seconds to top Yvette (28.84 seconds) and MHS bets Deborah Duhig (29.65), Reylynn Sapong (31.21), and Julie Duatin (33.61).

The 2008 NMASA Female Athlete of the Year awardee also ruled the 400m race, finishing the event in 1:07.52 and

See YVONNE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Twin sisters Yvonne, right, and Yvette Bennett slug it out in the 200m run in the girls' U18 division during the 2009 All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Rites of Passage 7 this Saturday

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

TRENCH TECH

No less than Universal Reality Combat Championship-Philippines bantamweight titleholder Justin "The Shocker" will headline Rites of Passage 7: Fists of Fury set for Saturday, May 23, at the Saipan World Resort.

Cruz will be taking on up-and-coming fighter Derick "El Peligro" Rangamar of Marianas Elite in the super fight to be held at the Royal Taga Hall of the Susupe landmark.

Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said so far six other fights are set with the main event between PXC heavyweight champi-

on Manny "The Enforcer" Chong against Saipan big man Ton "Peskadot" Robert shaping up to be most interesting.

SHOOTO Japan's No. 7-ranked Jess "The Spiderman" Taitano will also see action against Saipan's "Taby" Jay Muna in the semi main event.

Another must-see is fight is the one involving Trench Tech standout Giovanni "Palaksi" Sablan and Roy Matagolai

Japan's Joji "Akuma" Matsunaga, meanwhile, will take on Team Zogai's Skep "Dark Assassin" Palacios in a Japan vs. Saipan matchup.

Trench Tech's Slade "The Rage" Adelbai also returns to the ring when he goes toe-to-toe with Guam's Troy "Destroy" Munoz.

See RITES on Page 26

Guamanians top spearfishing tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Guamanian spearfishermen Myles Driscoll and Mike "Todd" Genereux dominated the 3rd Annual Saipan Spearfishing Tournament last Saturday by taking home the team and individual awards.

MASC

Driscoll and Genereux hauled in the most fish with their catch tipping the scales at 150.5 lbs—almost double the output of the runner-up team of Scott and Russell and Peter Houk.

The defending champions from Saipan netted 75.5 lbs., followed by Sasamoto brothers Felix and Gregg who speared 64 lbs. of fish.

Derek San Nicolas and John Kim (43 lbs.), Vince Tudela and Wyman Rechucher (38 lbs.), Henry Ilo and Ken Taitano (37 lbs.), Manny Camacho and Abraham Quitugua (35lbs), James and Ken Borja (32 lbs.), Pete Teigita and Visun Takahashi (15 lbs.), and Monique Genereux and Pat Atherton (11 lbs.) also competed in the team division.

Driscoll, meanwhile, left Saipan with

See GUAMANIANS on Page 26

Myles Driscoll, second left, and Mike "Todd" Genereux, right, are all smiles after winning the team competition of the 3rd Annual Saipan Spearfishing Tournament last Saturday. Also in photo are Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club president Morito Asai, left, and Driscoll and Genereux's skipper Ben Camacho.

MARK RABAGO

Pats dedicate title to CNMI soldiers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The biggest motivation for the Patriots' title bid in the Junior League division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball was the sacrifices of CNMI soldiers fighting for freedom in Iraq and elsewhere

"Every time, we go out there in the field and play against various teams, we think of our brave soldiers, who are fighting a different and much difficult battle," said Patriots manager Thelma Mizer.

The Pats are this season's champions in the Junior League division. They won over Ol'Aces in the finals, 8-4, and also took this year's pennant after

See PATS on Page 26

Patriots coach Manny Sablan talks to his players before the start of their title game against Ol'Aces in the Junior League division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Division last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO